Sefton Council ✠

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)

DATE: Tuesday 30th January 2024

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Birkdale Room - Southport Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1DA

Member	**Substitute**
Councillor	Councillor
Cllr. Judy Hardman (Chair)	Cllr. Peter Harvey
Cllr. Natasha Carlin (Vice-Chair)	Cllr. Paul Tweed
Cllr. Danny Burns	Cllr. Greg Myers
Cllr. Clare Carragher	Cllr. Jennifer Corcoran
Cllr. Leo Evans	Cllr. Gareth Lloyd-Johnson
Cllr. Christine Howard	Cllr. Phil Hart
Cllr. Christopher Page	Cllr. John Joseph Kelly
Cllr. Mike Prendergast	Cllr. Tony Brough
Cllr. Carol Richards	Cllr. Steve McGinnity
Cllr. Tom Spring	Cllr. John Kelly
Maurice Byrne, Healthwatch	
Mrs Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member	
Karen Christie, Healthwatch	
Michelle Ravey, Arch Diocese	
Stuart Harrison, Diocese	
Gemma Armer, PGR	
Cheryl Swainbank, PGR	

COMMITTEE OFFICER:	Laura Bootland, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone:	0151 934 2078
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If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

We endeavour to provide a reasonable number of full agendas, including reports at the meeting. If you wish to ensure that you have a copy to refer to at the meeting, please can you print off your own copy of the agenda pack prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

    Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.

    Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.

    Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**   (Pages 5 - 12)

    Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2023.

4. **Cabinet Member Reports**

    Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

    Cabinet Member Update – Children's Social Care (report to follow).
    Cabinet Member Update – Education (report to follow).

5. **Children's Services Improvement Programme**

    To receive a verbal update from the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education.

6. **Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement**   (Pages 13 - 24)

    Report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Safeguarding and Quality Assurance).

7. **Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023**   (Pages 25 - 36)

    To receive the Corporate Parenting Board's Annual Report.

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THIS SET OF MINUTES IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".

Overview & Scrutiny

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)

MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM - BOOTLE TOWN HALL, TRINITY ROAD, BOOTLE, L20 7AE
ON TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Hardman (in the Chair)
                  Councillor Carlin (Vice-Chair)
                  Councillors Burns, Evans, Howard, Page, Richards, Spring, and Brough

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. S. Cain, Independent Advisory Member
                  Mr. M Byrne, Healthwatch
                  Ms. G. Armer, Parent Governor Representative
                  Ms. M. Ravey, Arch Diocese Representative
                  Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care
                  Councillor Roscoe, Cabinet Member – Education
                  8 Members of the Public

27.   INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

28.   APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Prendergast and Ms. Cheryl Swainbank, Parent Governor Representative.

29.   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

30.   MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023, be confirmed as a correct record.

31.   PETITION - EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE PLANS FOR 16-25 YEAR OLDS

The Committee considered a petition which had been received by the Council from The Voice of the Families group.

Agenda Item 3

The petition requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Childrens Services and Safeguarding) should make Education and Healthcare Plans (EHCP) for 16–25-year-olds a regular and fixed feature on scrutiny committee agendas and designate a member of the scrutiny committee to be responsible for the EHCP agenda item. The petition also requested that the scrutiny committee should identify and publicise the names and contact details for the three people accountable for the provision of EHCPs.

A representative of The Voice of the Families was in attendance to present the petition.

The Committee responded with the following points:

- The Committee was grateful for the issue of EHCP's 16-25 year olds being brought to the Committee's attention.
- The Committee's agendas were formatted to ensure that all areas within the Committee's remit received specific attention.
- Championing this issue, along with all other issues the committee scrutinised, was the responsibility of all Members of the Committee.
- Parents and carers were reminded that if they had a complaint and felt the escalation process was not working for them, they had the right to contact their Ward Councillor.
- Data on EHCP's could be included in the data regularly presented to members via the Scorecard.

RESOLVED: That

(1)   the petition be noted; and

(2)   EHCP data for 16-25 year olds be included in the scorecard and reported to the Committee at each meeting.

32.   PETITION - PUBLIC SPEAKING AT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a petition which had been received by the Council from a local resident.

The petition requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Childrens Services and Safeguarding) should allow members of the public 5 minutes to speak at its formal committee meetings.

The lead petitioner was in attendance to present the petition.

The Committee responded with the following points:

- The Scrutiny Committee did not make formal decisions, it could scrutinise decisions and services and make recommendations.

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- The Committee was committed to making the committee process more accessible.
- There would be a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference (see agenda item 12 below), and public participation would be considered as part of this review. This petition would help inform discussions.
- In the meantime, the petition route remained open to the public.

RESOLVED:

That the petition be noted and be taken into consideration as part of the review of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

33.   CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer submitting the most recent update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care, and the Cabinet Member – Education, whose portfolios fell within the remit of the Committee.

The Cabinet Member update report – Children's Social Care, attached to the report at Appendix A, outlined information on the following:

Children's Social Care:
- o Stability and capacity in the workplace
- o Elected Member Training
- o Early Help and Protection

Cared for Children and Care Experienced:
- o The Sufficiency Strategy
- o Quality Assurance of Commissioned Placements
- o Unregulated and unregistered Placements

Safeguarding, review and Quality Assurance:
- o Practice Week
- o Quality Assurance

Youth Justice Service (YJS):
- o Performance
- o Key Performance Indicators
- o Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)Serious Youth Violence
- o JTAI Headlines
- o New His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons Inspection Framework

The Cabinet Member update report – Education, attached to the report at Appendix B, outlined information on the following:

- OFSTED Local Area Inspection preparation
- Delivering Better Value
- SEND

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- Inclusion
- School Improvement
- Early Years
- Virtual School
- School Attendance
- Exclusions

Councillors Roscoe and Doyle attended the meeting to present their reports and to respond to any questions or issues raised by Members of the Committee.

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:
- The Social Work Academy graduates and how many were being retained by Sefton Council upon graduation.
- The Early Help offer and details of the Leeds/Bradford model and Early Help Hubs.
- Progress made in the recruitment of Foster Carers.
- The financial forecast and level of overspend.
- Reasons for the overspend.
- Practice Week in March 2024 and a reminder that Members could get involved.
- The work around county lines issues.
- The reasons for a high level of school exclusions and managed moves.
- The recruitment of more SEND officers
- The Zing Pilot.

RESOLVED: That

(1)   the update reports from the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care and the Cabinet Member – Education be noted; and

(2)   reports on the following issues be brought to future meetings of the Committee:
        (a) Exclusions and the Graduated Approach in Early Years
        (b) The Zing Pilot
        (c) Early Help Hubs
        (d) Quality Assurance on EHCPs

34.   CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee received a verbal update from the Executive Director of Children's Services on progress made on the Improvement Programme.

The Committee was advised that an Ofsted Monitoring Visit had recently taken place, details of which could not be shared until the official letter

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outlining the findings was received by the Council. This would be in January 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

35. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES JOINT COMMISSIONING PLAN

The Committee considered the joint report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education and Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health/NHS Place Director presenting the draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Commissioning Strategy for 2023 – 2026.

The report detailed the process of development and highlighted the key points.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- Equality Assessment Report
- The SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2023 – 2026
- Plan on the Page

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:

- The cost implications and delivering best value.
- Training for social workers on Autistic Spectrum Disorders.
- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).
- Personal health budgets and how people were encouraged to make the best use of them.
- The national shortage of education psychologists and how the strategy supported this issue.

RESOLVED: That

(1)   the information provided be noted; and

(2)   a further report be submitted to a future meeting, to include information on budget implications, the graduated approach and commissioning and information on SENDIASS.

36. PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Quality Assurance and Safeguarding) that set out the quality assurance and performance headlines for the period August to October 2023.

Agenda Item 3

The performance Scorecard was circulated on a supplementary agenda and provided data and analysis of the Key Performance Indicators identified as illustrative of 'system health'.

Members of the Committee raised the following questions/issues:

- The figures for child protection conferences held within 15 days.
- The figures for the number of assessments completed within 45 days.

RESOLVED: That the following be noted:

(1) as performance capacity increases, data is now beginning to focus on key areas of the service which were driving high or low performance.

(2) assessment performance is an area where the level of detail is supporting our understanding.

(3) the quality assurance section of the report details the findings of audits, amendments to the quality framework as well as the focus of Quality Assurance activity for the coming period.

37.   EDUCATION SCORECARD

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

38.   OFSTED INSPECTIONS

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

39.   CONSIDERATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INCLUSION OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer proposing a review of the Committee's Terms of Reference in response to a petition received from the Voice of the Families group at the meeting held on 26 September. The petition requested representation of a further three independent people on the Committee who had lived experience.

Subsequent to the meeting on 26 September 2023, Committee Members had met informally to consider the request from the Voice of the Families group; the membership of the Committee, including co-opted members; the Terms of Reference for the Committee; and how best the Committee could obtain views of service users.

It was noted that the Committee already had several co-opted members from the Diocese, Archdiocese and Parent Governor Representatives, as required by the Council's Constitution. In addition, associate members

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from Healthwatch and an independent advisory member were also on the Committee.

Members felt that the Terms of Reference within the Council's Constitution could be streamlined to reflect statutory requirements and the priorities of the Committee.

It was noted that the Committee would continue with its programme of informal meetings and visits and would continue its efforts to seek the views and perspectives of parents, carers and young people.

RESOLVED: That

(1) a review of the Terms of Reference for the Committee, as set out in the Council's Constitution, to include the use of co-opted members and the possibility of establishing a sub-committee to formally meet with parent groups, be undertaken and any proposals for amendments be submitted to the Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in May 2024; and

(2) the Committee should continue to meet informally with groups of parents, children and representative groups and expand this throughout the Municipal Year, with the aim of ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience are heard and inform the work of the Committee.

40.   WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought to:

- seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24;
- indicate whether representatives of the Police and other Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team members should be invited to attend a future formal meeting of the Committee, or if the item should be referred to an informal meeting of Committee Members;
- note that there were no items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan;
- note the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24;
- note the training proposals available from the Local Government Association (LGA) and in-house;
- consider the topic of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as a potential item for in-depth scrutiny during 2023/24; and
- receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Agenda Item 3

RESOLVED: That

(1)   the Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted, along with the additional items agreed during this meeting as follows:
   (a)Exclusions and the Graduated Approach in Early Years
   (b) The Zing Pilot
   (c) Early Help Hubs and the Leeds/Bradford model
   (d) Quality assurance on EHCP's
   (e) Further report on issues raised on the SEND Joint Commissioning Plan report;

(2)   The Police and other Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team members be invited to attend a future formal meeting of the Committee;

(3)   the fact that there are no items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, on this occasion, be noted;

(4)   the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, as set out at Appendix B be noted;

(5)   the training proposals available from the Local Government Association and in-house be noted;

(6)   the topic of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) be approved for in-depth scrutiny by Members of the Committee during 2023/24 and relevant activities be included in the schedule of the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, as set out at Appendix B; and

(7)   the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	30th January 2024
Subject:	Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Children's Services (Quality Assurance and Safeguarding)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report will provide an overview of Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement activity during October and November 2023, in Sefton Children's Social Care. In addition to this it will set out the findings from audits over the last 12 months, enabling a view of direction of travel and areas of focus. Alongside the 'deep dive' audit activity which takes place each month, an increasing amount of focused dip sampling and quality assurance is now taking place. This work is undertaken as a result of lines of enquiry opened by performance data, or the need to evaluate or understand a discreet area of practice. There is a clear need to balance the resource available for quality assurance that provides a line of sight on practice with improving practice and working alongside operational colleagues.

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To provide Members with an overview of Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement activity during October and November 2023.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)
N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A)   Revenue Costs – N/A

(B)   Capital Costs – N/A

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Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):   N/A
Legal Implications: N/A
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: NO
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	NO
Have a neutral impact	NO
Have a negative impact	NO
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	YES

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

This work is undertaken as a result of lines of enquiry opened by performance data, or the need to evaluate or understand a discreet area of practice.

Protect the most vulnerable: Deep dive audit activity which takes place each month, an increasing amount of focused dip sampling and quality assurance
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Improving practice and working alongside operational colleagues
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment:

N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7505/24.....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5605/24....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B)   External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Email Address:	Joseph.banham@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

N/A

Background Papers:

1. Audit judgements - last 12 Months

The chart below summarises activity over the last 12 months; it provides a wider context and shows gradual improvement overtime. There is clear evidence that the amount of work graded Inadequate has reduced significantly over the last year; (December 2022 66% versus November 2023 13%). Good work has been identified but this is not consistent each month. Most work audited is considered Requires Improvement to Be Good.
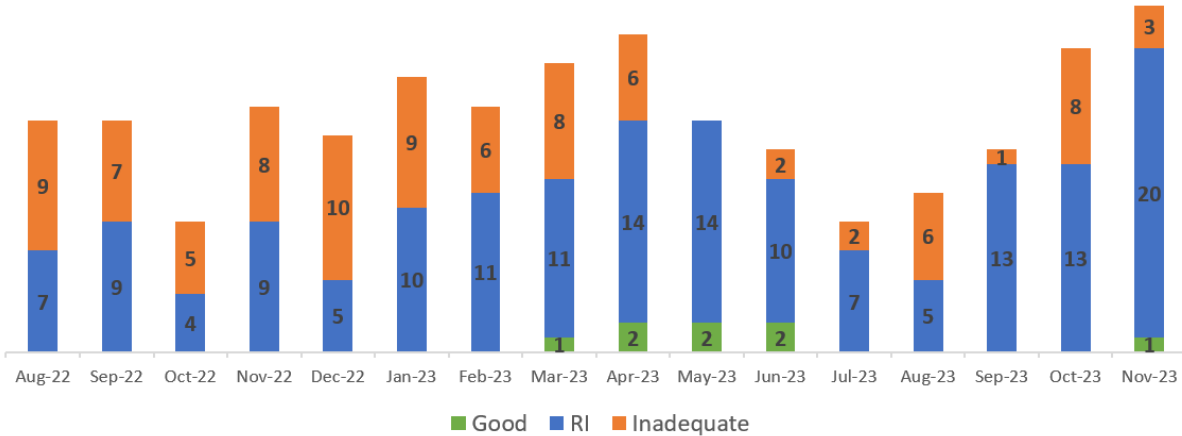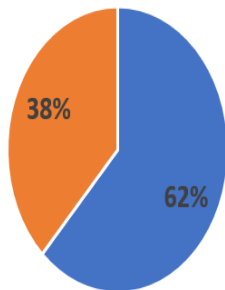
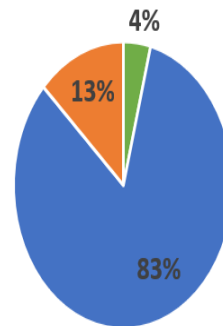## 2. Recent Audit Activity - October and November 2023

Since the last report, **45** deep dive audits have been completed across Childrens Social Care (October and November 2023). **21** of these audits were moderated **(47%).**

24 audits were completed during December 2023 which will be analysed and commented upon along with January audits in the next report. A verbal update for December 2023 will be available for the Improvement Board in January 2024.
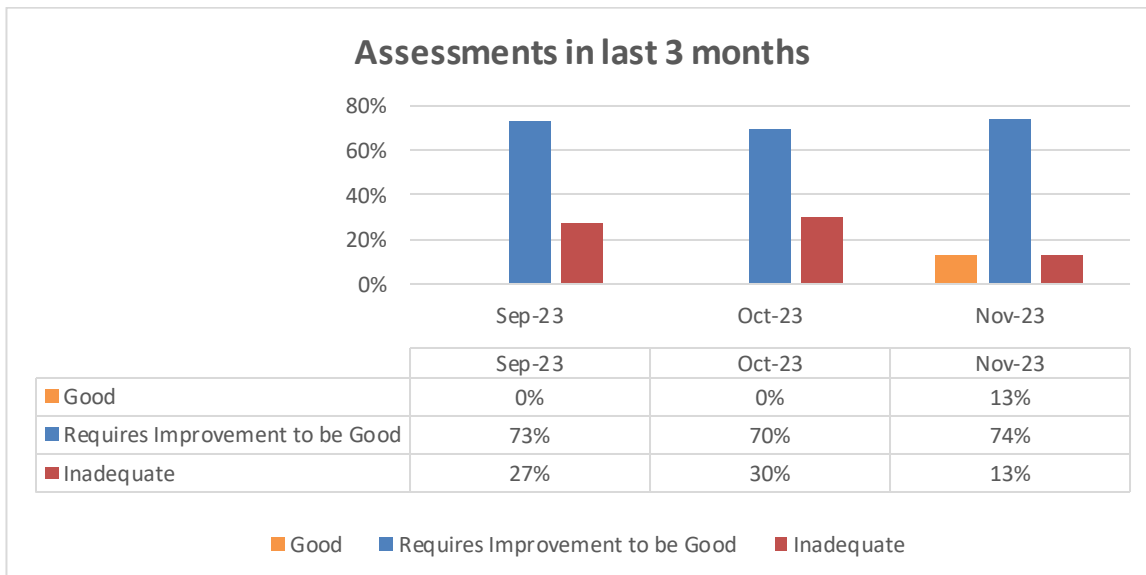
3. Audit Findings linked to Sefton 5 Practice Priorities:

Sefton's improvement plan identifies 5 'practice principles' which will be our focus moving forward, these are:

- Assessment
- Plans and Planning
- Child centred
- Management Oversight and Supervision
- Creating Permanence

To align with this latest version of the improvement plan, quality assurance will focus more specifically on these principles and their role in achieving good outcomes for children and their families.

3.1 Assessment

Assessments in last 3 months

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Good	0%	0%	13%
Requires Improvement to be Good	73%	70%	74%
Inadequate	27%	30%	13%

Good   Requires Improvement to be Good   Inadequate
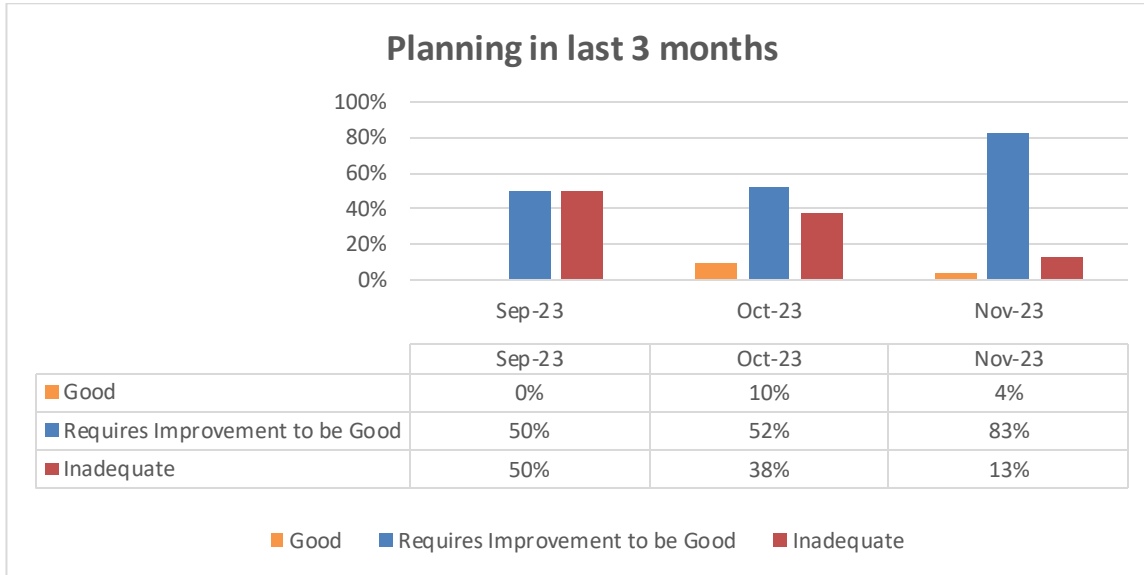
What do we know?
- Positively, most assessments are undertaken in timescale and demonstrate an understanding of the child and family's needs.
- Direction of travel above indicates measured improvement.
- Weaker assessments often lack depth and do not consider family history and capacity to change.
- Assessments can focus on singles issues, rather than explore the wider picture.
- When sexual abuse is recognised as a potential risk, there is limited exploration of this/direct work completed to understand and inform the assessment.
- Little or no information recorded on fathers; meaning disproportionate number of actions/ responsibilities assigned to mothers – missing information and or opportunities.
- Updated assessments following significant events or changes in circumstances are not consistently being completed; meaning information is lacking in terms of the child's current needs.
- There needs to be increased evidence of effective analysis which then goes on to form the 'bridge' to creating smarter plans that can make a difference.

3.2 Impact of any improvement or learning activity

- Good assessment training has been created and rolled out to relevant teams between August – December 2023. Comparing grades for domain area linked to assessment; improvement is evident.
- As more assessments are completed, the impact of this training should evidence continued improvement, this will be monitored through ongoing quality assurance.

4. <u>Planning</u>

Planning in last 3 months

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Good	0%	10%	4%
Requires Improvement to be Good	50%	52%	83%
Inadequate	50%	38%	13%

Good   Requires Improvement to be Good   Inadequate
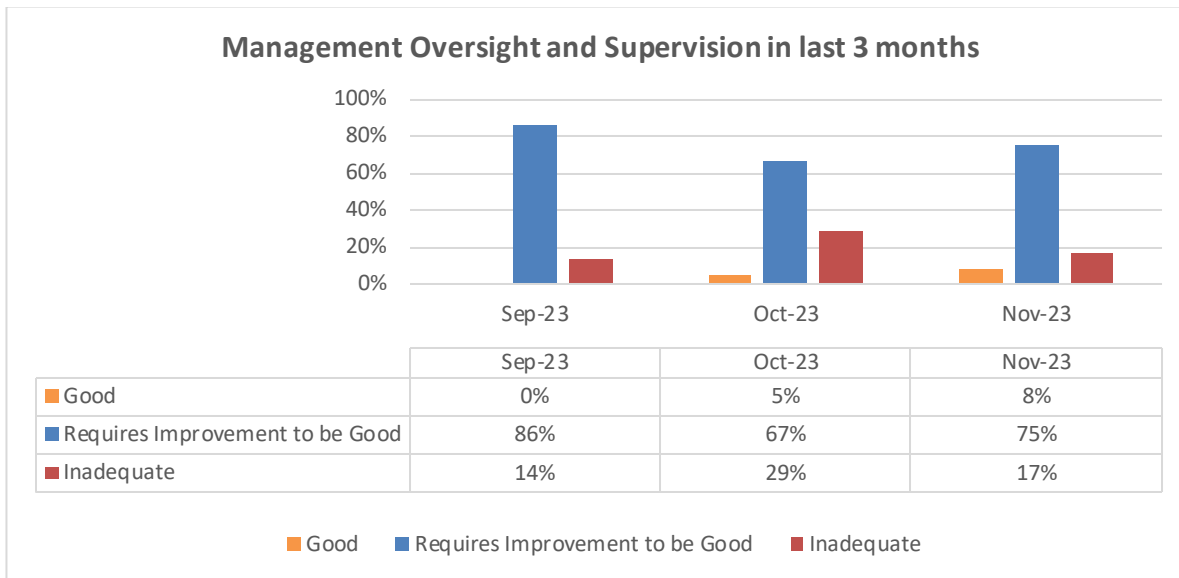
4.1 What do we know?

- Positively, parents and carers consulted told auditors that they were fully involved in planning for their child.
- Plans across the service are not SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely). They are often too generic and not updated with new or relevant information.
- Irregular multi agency meetings contribute to plans drifting and delays in the child and family receiving the right support.
- Drift is not always challenged by multi agency partners.
- When police have decided to take no further action in respect of sexual abuse; there is no ongoing consideration by the wider multi agency of sexual abuse.

4.2 Impact of any improvement or learning activity

- Good assessment training has linked assessment to planning. More work around analysis and critical thinking is planned with additional training to be offered around smart plans (February – April 2024).
- Audit performance data suggests some improvement in this area.
- Improving the quality of plans for children is crucial for our ongoing improvement journey. Practice improvement activity over the next quarter will focus on this aspect of practice.

5. **Supervision and Management Oversight**

Management Oversight and Supervision in last 3 months

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Good	0%	5%	8%
Requires Improvement to be Good	86%	67%	75%
Inadequate	14%	29%	17%

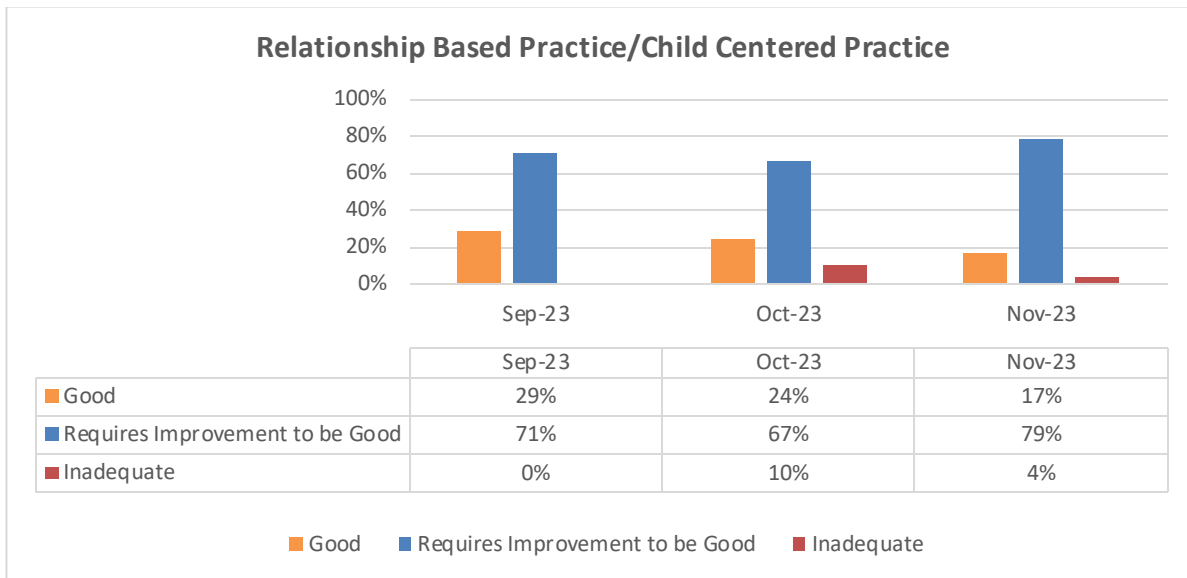■ Good ■ Requires Improvement to be Good ■ Inadequate

5.1 What do we know?
- Positively, supervision is taking place regularly across the service and largely within expected timescales. Also, there is evidence from recording that managers have a good knowledge of the families' practitioners are supporting.
- Evidence of reflective discussion does not always link back to the impact on the child.
- Action setting and tracking requires improvement to drive plans forward in a timely way.
- There is not sufficient challenge from managers or IROs when actions are not progressed or there are delays in achieving permanence.

5.2 Impact of any improvement or learning activity

- Leeds colleagues have worked with Team Managers and others to improve practice leaderships skills by facilitating Team Manager training and action learning sets on management oversight and supervision. Sessions have involved managers sharing examples of management oversight and supervision records with others for review and feedback (show and share approach). In November 2022, 59% of audits were graded Inadequate for this domain; compared to 17% in November 2023 showing progress.
- Principal Social Worker will continue to offer quarterly action learning sets to managers to provide ongoing opportunities for reflection and sharing when our work with Leeds ends.
- All managers are now engaged in audit; managers tell us that by doing audits themselves and reviewing the work of colleagues; this allows them to reflect upon and improve their own oversight.
- The current focus for observation of practice is supervision; allowing practice to be observed in action; guidance and ideas to be shared; providing opportunity to further triangulate audit findings.

Agenda Item 6

6. Relationship based practice - child centred practice

Relationship Based Practice/Child Centered Practice

	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
Good	29%	24%	17%
Requires Improvement to be Good	71%	67%	79%
Inadequate	0%	10%	4%

Good · Requires Improvement to be Good · Inadequate

6.1 What do we know?

- Positively, visits to children and young people are regular and they are given the opportunity to discuss their wishes, feelings, and aspirations.
- There is also evidence of Social Workers building positive relationships with parents and engaging them in planning for their child (with one example of a memory box being shared to support understanding of life journey in the future).
- Changes in Social Worker/practitioners impact relationship building; often changes of worker are not supported by proper handovers.
- Use of direct work tools is limited.
- When direct work is undertaken; this is rarely analysed to consider impact on the child/ review how information gathered can support the plan.
- Delays in referrals being made to Family Group Conference service mean that support for families is not identified early on.

6.2 Impact of any improvement or learning activity

- Leeds colleagues have over the course of the last 18 months supported Sefton to embed a family valued approach to practice. Child Centred/relational practice continues to be a strength with 21% of audits completed during October and November 2023 graded Good in this domain; 73% Requires Improvement to be Good and 7% Inadequate. Recent good assessment training has reinforced messaging around relational practice and Practice Week in October 2023 brought people together for further learning; with Sefton family members sharing their own lived experiences.

7. <u>Creating Permanence</u>

7.1 What do we know?

- Positive outcomes achieved for care experienced young people who have secure, stable accommodation and family support around them
- The main barrier to achieving permanence is that plans are not smart; or focused enough on achieving early permanence.
- Delays in court proceedings mean that permanence is not achieved in the right timeframe for the child or young person.
- Special Guardianship is not being revisited with long term foster carers in an ongoing way (following them indicating they do not wish to pursue SGO).
- Families are sometimes stepped down from a child protection plan without evidence of parents completing the necessary work or engaging in the plan. Auditors queried rationale and impact on future permanence for the child.
- Family Group Conference could/should have been requested earlier to support permanence being achieved at the earliest opportunity.
- The absence of updated chronologies and full family genograms means that we do not understand the full history or current wider family support network.
- Absent transition planning to support young people into adulthood post 18.

7.2 Impact of any improvement or learning activity

- Practice & Performance Meetings bring practitioners and managers together on a quarterly basis. The focus in November 2023 was on achieving stability and permanence for children and young people. New guidance prepared by the Safeguarding & Review Unit was discussed and shared which sets out clearly the importance of legal, psychological, and physical permanence.
- In addition, a pilot audit tool focused specifically on permanence was created; to be tested in December and January 2024.

8. What children and their families are telling us

Auditors spoke to 8 children and young people during October and November 2023 and 30 parents/carers.

Of the 30 parents/carers spoken to – 15 (50%) rated the service they had received as Excellent/Good, 9 (30%) as average and 3 (10 %) as very poor. 10% said it was "too early to say."

Of the 8 children/young people spoken to - 4 (50%) rated the service they had received as Excellent/Good, 2 (25%) as average and 1 (12.5%) as quite poor and 1 (12.5%) did not give a rating.

- "I attend all meetings and get copies of everything. The Social Worker keeps me informed in between meetings and I think things are progressing well."

- "The referral to Active Sefton has had the biggest impact on X as this helped his self-esteem and school attendance."
- "I don't know what more help could have been offered."
- "I have to prompt professionals for things and chase things up."
- "Mum had asked for a parenting programme a long time ago and the referral has only just been made; the situation deteriorated in this time."

Moving forward, and available for analysis in future reports there will be richer, more detailed engagement with families in respect of the service they are receiving. This work will be co-ordinated through the Safeguarding Unit and involve gathering the experiences of families who have experienced intervention at key planning points.

- 6 Month Child in Need Review
- 3-month Child Protection Plan Review
- At the point a Child Protection Plan Ends
- All children who have been the subject of a Care Order for two years or more

This ongoing dialogue with stakeholders will support improvement activity by connecting our view of the work we do with the experience of our children and their families.

9. Actions in Respect of Key Findings

- There will be focused activity to improve plans and planning over the next 3 months with a particular emphasis on the importance of analysis. Practice & Performance Meeting will take place on 18.03.24 as part of Social Work Week. There will be a combination of training, one to one learning and reflective discussions to support improvement.

10. Thematic dip samples undertaken during October and November 2023:

10.1. <u>Quality of assessment in Help & Protect teams -</u>
to obtain an "as is" picture before good assessment training was provided/become embedded within teams. 16 children considered in this dip sample. Findings as follows:

- It was positive to see that all the children being assessed had been visited at least once at home. In most of the records, the children's voice is recorded but generally in the Social Workers written account.
- Assessments were free from jargon and use plain language – this is increasingly evident.
- In most assessments, the family history is captured but this would benefit from being reflected upon within the analysis to understand past strengths/harm and the impact this has had on the children.
- Assessing parent's capacity to change is not explored in detail.

- Assessments would benefit from stronger management grip; using "check in" points to reflect on progress, insights from family, child and partners which can then be recorded as management oversight. Check ins can reduce drift and delay and allow for clear practice direction to be given to the Social Worker to improve the outcomes for the child and their family.

Repeat dip sample activity is planned for January – March 2024 to consider how well good assessment training has transferred to practice.

10.2. Re- referrals for Assessment –
to consider high number of re – referrals in the month of September/ explore rationale behind this; consider quality of first assessment, intervention, support, and planning that followed.
15 children were considered in this dip sample. Findings as follows:

- Out of the 15 screened, one family had a clear step-down plan, 3 were recommended Early Help but did not consent, 3 did not consent to anything post assessment, 5 closed with no further action and 4 assessments were closed that we felt should have remained open.
- 15 assessments did include an analysis within the assessment, however presented more like a description of the issues or risk and did not consider the impact on the child. There was limited evidence of tools or research being used in order inform the analysis.
- For children that had previously been assessed, it was not always explicit what had changed for the family since the previous assessment and the impact this had on the child. Assessing parent's capacity to change is not explored in detail.
- When Quality assuring assessments, there needs to be increasing focus on the 'Analysis' section - this is vital in creating the plan for the family.

10.3. Repeat Child Protection plans –
Analysis of repeat plans is key activity in understanding the impact and effectiveness of intervention.
20 children were considered in this dip sample. Findings as follows:

- In more than half of the families (62.5%), the second period of child protection planning took place within 2 years of the previous plan stepping down.
- In almost all families (75%), the presenting worries were the same as previous.
- In all the sampling (100%), domestic abuse was a feature and the actions recommended in the Child Protection Plan had not been completed or a clear plan put in place at Child in Need (CIN) to complete this work.
- On a number of children's records, there was little evidence of reflection within the supervision notes of why the decision was made to step down to CIN and the evidence based planning used to support the recommendation to conference.
- When a CP plan is ended, there needs to be increasing grip around the Step Down activity - for example ongoing Child in Need Planning.

11.   Key Findings

- Vast Majority of practice is now graded as 'requires improvement to be good'
- 'Stubborn rump' of inadequate persists - deficits in planning accounts for a great deal of this. Planning is the clear focus of improvement activity over the next quarter.
- Performance information continues to evidence improved conditions for better quality practice.
- Quality assurance resource needs to be balanced between 'measuring' and improving - dip sample activity, new formats of audits, practice observations and co-ordinated evidence driven improvement activity work towards addressing this.

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 30 January 2024
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023		
Report of:	Chair of Board; Cllr Mhairi Doyle	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Children's Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To provide Members with an overview of the activities of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board 2023. The overview relates to all board activities completed between January 2023 and December 2023.

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To provide Members with an overview of the activities of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board 2023.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A)   Revenue Costs - All costs identified within this report have been assigned to and are contained within existing budget provision for Corporate Parenting activities.

(B)   Capital Costs – N/A

Agenda Item 7

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): N/A
Legal Implications: N/A
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: N/A
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Report activities outline monitoring and scrutiny arrangements applicable to services for cared for and care experienced children and young people.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Activities contribute to support of cared for and care experienced children and young people through the successful transition to adulthood.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment:

N/A
Cleaner Greener: N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7468/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5568/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

The report was agreed by members of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board at the meeting on 29th November 2023.

(B)   External Consultations

N/A

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Karen Gray
Telephone Number:	07929769319
Email Address:	Karen.gray@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Board – Annual Activities Report 2023.

Background Papers:

The Corporate Parenting Board Annual Activities report 2023 is attached to this document for information.

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Sefton Corporate Parenting Board.

Annual Report 2023

Report to: Sefton Children's Services. Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Report author: Cllr Mhairi Doyle

Date or report: December 2023

Purpose of the Sefton Corporate Parenting Board

The term 'corporate parenting' describes the collective responsibility of the council to prioritise the needs of cared for and care experienced children and young people and seek for them the same outcomes any good parent would want for their own children.

The Corporate Parenting Board is designed to provide the necessary leadership that drives an ambitious and multi-agency approach to improving outcomes for children and young people that we care for.

To undertake these functions well it must work in a way that ensures the voice of children and young people is influential in decision making.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Board.

It is the role of the Corporate Parenting Board to monitor the key priorities and outcomes for Cared For and Care Experienced children and young people in Sefton. The Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Councillor Mhairi Doyle, who will champion and monitor the Corporate Parenting strategy and help drive its implementation. The Board consists of cross-party members and senior managers who meet bi-monthly, receive reports, including performance reports, undertake strategic and thematic enquiries into specific elements of the strategy and seek ways of resolving barriers to its success.

Sefton Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines our vision for our cared for and care experienced children and young people and is underpinned by the seven corporate parenting principles as outlined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The strategy can be viewed at: https://intranet.smbc.loc/media/905696/FINAL-CP-Strategy-2023-2025.pdf

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5 Key Priority Areas

Each of the 5 Key Priority Areas contained in the strategy are underpinned by multi-agency working groups who report directly to the board on the progress of the action plans driving forward improvements in their key area.

The 5 Key Priority Areas detailed in the strategy are:

Being Heard – Working Group Chair – Cheryl Yates.

Priority Aims:

Involve all children and young people in care and Care Leavers, subject to their age and understanding, in any assessment, plan or review in respect of their own lives and upbringing.

Support young people to express their views in meetings such as child protection conferences, Children in Care statutory reviews, pathway planning meetings and in their care placements.

Provide advocates and supporters to help young people's views to be heard in these settings.

Regularly ask the views of children and young people on their experience of our care.

Ensure that messages from the Children in Care Councils are widely disseminated to officers and elected members and that responses are provided consistently.

Members of the Corporate Parenting Board and senior managers will routinely offer to attend meetings of the Children in Care Councils and to take opportunities to meet, talk to and be with young people at events such as awaydays, celebration events and parties.

Offer training on young people's participation to council officers, carers and elected members.

Safe and Stable homes – Working Group Chair – Simon Fisher.

Priority Aims:

Always seek to enable Children in Care to live with extended family or kinship members when possible. Where this is not possible fostering should be a first option.

Recognise that residential care may be a positive choice for some young people.

Maintain our strong focus on recruiting more in-house foster carers investing strongly in their support and training and validating the contribution they make to our corporate parenting.

Strive to place our children with providers rated as 'outstanding' or 'good'.

All children to be placed in regulated or registered provision.

Seek to minimise the number of placement moves children may experience, especially those which are unplanned.

To ensure all children and young people, where possible, are placed in Sefton.

Develop and gather key data in relation to internal and external placement provision.

To ensure all placements have robust care plans and Individual placement agreements in place.

Seek to provide the offer of 'staying put', to young people 18-21yrs old living with foster carers subject to their wishes.

Work with social housing and third sector organisations to commission and provide a range of supported semi-independent accommodation and permanent housing options for our care leavers.

Raising Aspirations – Working Group Chair – Mary Palin.

Priority Aims:

Work with our carers and social workers to increase their ambition and support for the educational outcomes of all our children and Care Leavers.

Work with the Virtual School to be the strongest advocates for children's education in their dealings with individual schools and local authorities.

Ensure that all children of or approaching school age are 'School Ready'.

Ensure that any Cared For Child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities has a comprehensive education, health and care or SEN plan.

Work with schools to make best use of the Pupil Premium Plus entitlement to promote the educational outcomes of individual Cared For Children.

Always seek to enable children to remain in the schools they were attending when they come into our care.

Strive to reduce the number of changes of school experienced by children in our care.

Always look to place our Cared For Children in schools rated by Ofsted as 'good' or better.

Work closely with schools and carers to plan and support a child's transition to a new school setting.

Ensure a constant focus on school attendance, suspensions and exclusions of children, keeping to a minimum the time our children are out of school.

Work with further education providers, employers, and other public sector partners to expand the post 16 education, training and employment offer which can be accessed by older young people in and leaving our care.

Health and Wellbeing – Working Group Chair – Helen Case

Priority Aims:

Ensure that every child has a timely, initial health assessment on becoming looked after which is reviewed at least annually.

Ensure that our carers promote healthy lifestyles and understand both the physical and the emotional or mental health needs of our children, as well as health needs arising from 'risky' behaviours such as substance misuse.

Provide support and consultation to carers and residential staff in respect of caring for children and young people with challenging health needs.

Improve completion of SDQ's for new to care and for those children and young people placed out of borough.

Work with our partners to provide access to emotional and mental health support and services.

Transition and preparation for Adulthood – Working Group Chair – Laura Doyle.

Priority Aims:

Ensure that all young people in our care over the age of 16yrs have a pathway plan specific to their needs and aspirations and an allocated personal advisor.

Ensure that all pathway plans have a specific focus on care experienced young people being able to access suitable accommodation and education, employment, or training.

Expect our foster carers and residential homes to provide opportunities for young people to develop independent living skills appropriate to their age and stage.

Provide leaving care financial support, grants (e.g., setting up home) and other forms of financial relief to care experienced young people in line with our financial assistance policies.

Fully support any young person who wishes to pursue higher education to obtain places and apply for student loans. We will look at funding accommodation for young people who wish to seek higher education as necessary.

Continue our work with further education colleges, employment training providers to help young people access high quality training and apprenticeships.

As a council provide internship, apprenticeship and employment opportunities for our looked after young people and care leavers.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit. Letter published: 23rd August 2023.

'The Corporate Parenting Board has been refreshed with clear and appropriate priorities and workstreams and this is starting to improve the oversight of children in care.'

'The Corporate Parenting Board has been strengthened since the last inspection. There is now a clear strategy with five priority areas that have been co-produced with children, and dedicated workstreams appropriately focused on improving children and young people's outcomes. While routine performance information and supplementary reporting is helping the board to better scrutinise, challenge and hold senior managers to account.'

Children and Young People's Participation

At the heart of everything the board are working to achieve are the views, thoughts, wishes and feelings of our cared for and care experienced children and young people. With this in mind a full-time dedicated Participation Officer for Children's Social Care was appointed in January 2022.

The board receive two reports at every meeting from our children and young people's groups – Youth Ambassadors (11yrs to 15yrs) and Making A Difference (16yrs plus). Young people from both groups meet regularly with board members while four members of the Making A Difference group are board members and attend every meeting.

In addition, the board hold an annual survey to gather the views of the wider cared for population. The survey is split into two age groups (5-9yrs and 10yrs plus). The results of the survey are used to inform the action planning of the 5 Key Priority working groups and are integral to the continued development of our services for children and young people.

Achievements in 2023.

- Protected Characteristics Status for Care Experienced. Incorporating guaranteed interviews across Sefton Council for care experienced who meet basic criteria.
- Partnership Agreement between Sefton Virtual School and Liverpool City Region Further Education Providers.
- Access to Sefton Council on-line learning for cared for and care experienced young people age 16yrs plus.
- Review and update of 'Foster Family Friendly' policy for Sefton employees.
- Review and update of Sefton Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- Development and implementation of bespoke 'ring-fenced' apprenticeship with Mersey Care.
- Introduction of Care Experienced annual survey.
- Inclusion of Care Experienced young people as vulnerable group within Housing Strategy 5-year plan.
- Launch of 'Sefton Foster Carers Association'
- Introduction of 'Sefton Charter for Foster Carers'

Sefton Corporate Parenting Board - Terms of Reference

Objectives:

To provide holistic, member driven engagement with the key areas of the corporate parenting function. These include:

o Hearing the views of cared for and care experienced children and young people, about the services they receive from the Council.

o Methods to raise the aspiration, ambitions, and life chances of children in care and care leavers, narrowing the gap of achievement and outcomes between cared for children (CfC) and their peers.

o Ensuring that all elected members are fully aware of their corporate parenting duties and responsibilities by providing relevant information and encouraging access to training opportunities.

o Ensuring that all Council services are mindful of the needs of cared for and care experienced children and young people and respond accordingly within their remit.

o Development and support of strong partnerships with the public, private, voluntary and faith sectors to promote and enhance opportunities for cared for and care experienced children and young people.

o The outcomes of Ofsted inspections as they may arise and any actions that are required to improve services to.

o The promotion of excellent and innovative practice in relation to the Corporate Parent role from which others can learn. To pro-actively engage with forums that include and represent cared for and care experienced children and young people, in particular the Sefton Children's Services Youth Ambassadors and the Making A Difference Care Experienced Forum, and with other relevant partners and stakeholders in pursuance of achieving positive outcomes for children in care and care leavers.

o The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board may also extend an invitation to relevant partners and stakeholders, to attend meetings of the Board to seek their view on appropriate agenda items.

Frequency of meetings: Every 2 months

Work Programme: Yearly

Senior Advisor to the Board: Executive Director for Children's Social Care and Education. Sefton Council.

Support to the Board: will be provided by the Corporate Parenting Officer. Sefton Council.

Accountability: Chair to report to the Leader of the Council. Annual Report to Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Membership:

Cllr Mhairi Doyle – Chair. Lead Member for Children's Social Care
Cllr Paul Cummins – Vice Chair
Cllr Ian Maher – Leader of Sefton Council.
Cllr Paulette Lappin – Elected Member
Cllr Diane Roscoe – Lead Member for Education
Cllr Lynne Thompson – Elected Member
Cllr John Pugh – Elected Member
Cllr Mike Prendergast – Elected Member
Phil Porter – Chief Executive. Sefton Council.

Sasha Thompson – Sefton Care Experienced Young Person
Ania Wojcik - Sefton Care Experienced Young Person
Kathryn Johnson – Foster Carer. Sefton Council

Helen Case – Designated Nurse. Cared for Children. Merseyside and Cheshire NHS (Sefton Borough)
Dr Natalie Daniels – Designated Doctor Children in Care. Merseyside and Cheshire NHS (Sefton Borough)
Kerrie France – Assistant Director of Quality & Safety Improvement. Merseyside and Cheshire NHS (Sefton Borough)
Risthardh Hare – Executive Director. Children's Social Care & Education. Sefton Council
Nicky Hale – (Interim) Assistant Director. Corporate Parenting & Care Experienced Services. Sefton Council
Joe Banham – Assistant Director. Safeguarding & Quality Assurance. Sefton Council
Mandy Williams – Assistant Director. Help and Protection. Sefton Council
Julie Bucknall – Service Manager. Corporate Parenting Services. Sefton Council
Simon Fisher – Service Manager. Fostering and Adoption Services. Sefton Council
Laura Doyle – Service Manager. Adolescent and Care Experienced Services. Sefton Council
Mary Palin – Head Teacher. Sefton Virtual School
Cheryl Yates – Participation Officer. Sefton Council

Nigel Bellamy – Deputy CEO. Sefton CVS / Sharon Cotterall. Strategic Lead. Children and Families. Sefton CVS

Sarah Vaughan – Service Manager. Sefton Career Connect.

Reporting Officers: Attendance as requested.

- o Children's Complaints Officer. Sefton Council.
- o Independent Visiting and Advocacy Service. NYAS
- o Service Manager. Safeguarding. Sefton Council.
- o Clinical Lead. Sefton CAMHS. Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust.
- o Service Manager. Sefton Youth Offending Team.
- o Departmental Leads. Sefton Council.
- o AiMs (Adoption in Merseyside). Chief Executive Officer

Sefton Council ✠

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting	30 January 2024
Subject:	Sefton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2022-2023		
Report of:	SACRE	**Wards Affected:**	All
This Report Contains Exempt / Confidential Information	No		
Contact Officer:	Ian Ross (Pennine Learning)		
Tel:			
Email:	Ian@penninelearning.com		

Purpose / Summary of Report:

This report is being brought to the Committee for information. This annual report is prepared by Sefton SACRE. SACRE as a body is required to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted.

Agenda Item 8

Sefton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

(SACRE)

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Agenda Item 8

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Section One: Introduction and the Work of SACRE

Words from the Chair

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Sefton SACRE for 2022/23. We have continued in our efforts to support schools and RE teachers throughout our borough to ensure that Sefton children receive a quality religious education. We have welcomed new members to our SACRE to increase our diversity and representation and hope to grow our SACRE further in 2024.

Our SACRE is committed to highlighting the positive outcomes that can be achieved by a quality RE syllabus, delivered by well trained and supported RE teachers. These include:

- Developing critical thinking skill by getting students to think for themselves,
- Understanding of and empathy for others and the ability to see other points of view,
- Helping children think about big questions such as the meaning of life,
- Teaching pupils to articulate their personal beliefs and values while respecting the right of others to differ,
- Giving pupils an understanding of a range of religions and other world views, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities.

We live in difficult and turbulent times. Empathy, understanding, tolerance and the skills to articulate ideas and make sense of the world are necessary to navigate and thrive.

I would like to thank all the Council Members, our dedicated staff and our adviser Ian Ross. With their help, I am confident that Sefton SACRE will continue to provide excellent support and advice to all Sefton Schools.

Diane Roscoe Chair of Sefton SACRE 2022 - 23

Agenda Item 8

Overview

This annual report is prepared by Sefton SACRE. SACRE as a body is required to advise the Local Authority on matters relating to Religious Education and Collective Worship. This report provides a picture of the support given for Religious Education and Collective Worship during 2022-23. The report is a public document which is also sent to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) and the Department for Education.

For further information on the report or on RE and Collective Worship in Sefton, contact Ian Ross at ian@penninelearning.com
For information on SACRE please contact the clerk, Jane McNeice at
Jane.McNeice@sefton.gov.uk

Dates and content of meetings

There were four meetings of Sefton SACRE during the year 2022-23 held at the Professional Development Centre, Formby on 29th September 2022, 29th November 2022, 7th March 2023 and 22nd June 2023. Themes for these meetings have been agreed as part of the SACRE Work Plan. Meetings are open to the public and minutes are also available on-line.

Diane Roscoe was appointed chair of SACRE in June 2022 and was ably supported by Natalie Ford as Vice Chair. As SACRE has been reconstituted, we have looked carefully at membership of different groups, and we are conscious that diversity in representation is needed including the range of faiths and beliefs in the area as well as working with Multi Academy Trusts.

As well as considering the general position of RE and collective worship in the borough, SACRE discussed the following issues at its meeting during the year:
- The Local Agreed syllabus and CPD implications for subject leaders and non-specialist teachers.
- Clarification of funding for Sefton SACRE responsibilities and activities.
- Review of provision for RE, including time allocation in all schools in the borough.
- Improving representation on SACRE from those groups currently under-represented.
- Completion of SACRE self-evaluation.
- Reviewing collective worship guidance for all schools in the borough.

- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) – items of interest or action, including information from NASACRE conference and training for SACRE members.

SACRE Priorities and actions for 2022-23

Produce regular information for schools through the updated SACRE website.

The SACRE website is now up to date including contact information and guidance. This has also been shared with the national RE Hubs website.

Provide updated guidance on key areas

- **RE**
- **Collective Worship**
- **Celebrating diversity**
- **SMSC/Fundamental values**
- **Withdrawal procedure advice**
- **Tolerance of faith toolkit and sensitivity to faith document.**

Template policies for RE and Collective Worship have been shared with schools. Guidance documents are now available on the SACRE website for all schools including withdrawal advice, collective worship guidance and a new document to support schools in understanding sensitivity to faith called 'Sharing the Journey'. Although this guidance has been produced and shared with schools we cannot yet judge the impact of how these are being used in settings until the results of provision surveys are analysed.

CPD support

Termly subject networks

Offer new coordinator training

During the year we have set up a teacher network supported by Meols Cop High School. This network for coordinators and subject leaders is yet to be developed fully to share good practice in RE.

A one-day course for coordinators in primary schools was successfully delivered in February 2023. This enabled coordinators who attended the course to design their RE curriculum and consider mapping of subject knowledge and concepts across year groups.

Subject Leader support

1:1 professional discussions with all secondary schools on their RE provision

1:1 support for school leaders on RE time/ long term planning

Develop the RE Award scheme as a step towards REQM

Through provision surveys of both primary and secondary schools we have identified key questions to ask at school improvement partner visits to schools including how schools are fulfilling their statutory duties of teaching RE. The consultant/ professional advisor has been available for support to schools requesting help through virtual and face to face meetings. The RE Award scheme has been developed in line with the national REQM. This is an evidence based self-evaluation which schools can use to evaluate their own practice. This can then be used as a stepping stone towards the national REQM.

Enhancing RE Provision

Produce an up-to-date faith visits list of places of worship or visitors to support quality RE

Work is yet to begin on this list, but schools can access some information on visits and visitors through the RE Hubs Website. https://www.re-hubs.uk

Self-evaluation

During the year, Sefton SACRE completed a process of self-evaluation based on the NASACRE template. Arising from this the following areas future development were identified and will be bult into the development plan for the next two years.

Section 1: Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders

- Understanding the wider LA perspective to focus meetings and direction.
- Continue to widen membership to ensure full representation of faiths and worldviews.
- Ensure that the process of induction is well organised with new members receiving a training/ discussion session.
- Continue developing linkage with national and local priorities. Refine targets as more data and information is available – questionnaire and GCSE analysis.
- Set up a data analysis group which can then inform questions for visits to schools with a focus on non examined KS4
- Professional partner visit will inform schools doing well to gain better understanding. Need to develop links with local interfaith and neighbouring LAs through NNW SACRE Hub
- Good secondary and MAT representation on SACRE and now need to develop primary membership of SACRE

Section 2. Standards and quality of provision of Religious Education

- Continue collecting data from questionnaires, professional conversations to inform CPD and further support for RE.
- Need to collect data from GCSE and questionnaire to present in annual report.
- Continue analysing data from questionnaires and GCSE results to target support for schools.
- Continue developing the SACRE website including regular newsletters and support for schools through CPD and networks.

Section 3: The effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus (continuation of targets from previous year)

- Professional discussions will include gathering information about impact of AS
- Develop CPD networks to share good practice in the Agreed Syllabus

Section 4. Collective Worship

- Collect information about Collective Worship in the LA and identify support through monitoring and collective worship reviews.

Section 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community

- Include a standing item on agenda to ensure community representation on SACRE. Use the census 2022 material and ward make up information to ensure effective membership.
- Once a year discussion with community cohesion lead in Sefton to discuss how SACRE can support Community Cohesion.

Further details of the self-evaluation or the development plan can be obtained via the clerk to SACRE.

Meetings for 2023-24

Meetings for the 2023 – 2024 academic year have been provisionally set for 28th September 2023, 30th November 2023, 13th March 2024 and 27th June 2024. Themes for these meetings

have been agreed as part of the SACRE Work Plan.   For more information contact the clerk, Jane McNeice at Jane.McNeice@sefton.gov.uk

Priorities for 2023 - 24

Monitor the provision of RE and Collective Worship in all schools and identify priorities for support.

Provide effective support for coordinators and subject leaders through primary and secondary RE networks. Identification of training needs will take place through the annual survey and discussions at networks/ CPD events.

Provide CPD for schools through middle leaders training (New Coordinator Course) and for teachers to develop subject knowledge and consistent planning of units of work.

Develop a database of quality assured places to visit and visitors to enable schools to enhance the understanding of the lived experience of people of faith and no faith.

Continue collaborating with the national RE Hub and local NNWHub of SACREs.

Section Two: Statutory Responsibilities: Religious Education

The Local Agreed Syllabus

The Local Agreed syllabus, is the statutory curriculum for all maintained schools in the borough. This syllabus has been produced by RE Today Services and follows RE Council guidance laid out in 2013 as well as the Commission on RE Report 2018, the Ofsted Inspection Handbook 2019 and Ofsted Research Review. Other academies and free schools must teach RE according to the requirements of their trust deed or funding agreement. Although SACREs and local authorities do not have any responsibility or authority for their curriculum, it welcomes use of these resources by all local schools. A recent survey of the schools demonstrates that most schools and academies without a faith background have adopted the Sefton Agreed Syllabus.

Standards and Monitoring

SACRE enquiry
In June 2022, Sefton SACRE asked all schools to complete a brief survey about the provision of RE.

The main general findings and issues from the survey were:
50% of secondary schools completed the survey and 30% of primary schools provided a return. Of all schools that took the time to complete the survey all had adopted and appropriate syllabus. Most schools give appropriate time to the teaching of RE and that it is mostly taught as a discreet subject. Where areas of concern have been noted SACRE will write to schools and arrange for a professional discussion regarding the time allocated or the provision in place. School Improvement partners will meet with secondary schools to discuss questions that have arisen from the SWF Census return or from the provision survey.

The survey has informed SACRE of the needs of schools and enabled targeted support and action Responses from school includes:
- Materials and training to support multi-faith teaching.
- Contact details of quality assured visitors who could come and talk about their faith.

- Subject knowledge training and guidance on adapting the local syllabus to suit the needs of the school.
- Adapting planning for special needs children.
- Developing resources to support the teaching of the syllabus.

SACRE will provide support and training through termly networks set up by the Group C (Teachers) from across the borough.

A new provision survey and needs questionnaire has been sent to all schools in September 2023 and the analysis of this will be included in the report for 2023 – 24.

Examination results

GCSE and A Level results for 2023 were not available at a local level when this report was published. SACRE has analysed the SWF Census return to generate questions for secondary schools as it appears that some schools have limited hours of teaching of RE at KS4.

A report produced by NATRE (National Association of the Teachers of RE) reveals that the removal of the short course from performance tables has had a devastating impact on the number of children leaving school with a qualification in Religious Studies. In many cases, the loss of the short course has coincided with an increase in the number of schools reporting zero hours of timetable time for RE in year 11 in the school workforce data. At A level, entries have remained fairly stable over recent years in England but in Wales, there is a step decline, of around 33% since 2020. The reasons for this need further investigation.

Key points:

1. In both England and Wales, GCSE entries for Religious Studies Full Course have risen substantially.
Since 2010, GCSE entries for RS full course in England, have risen by just over 30% (51,645) from 170,767 to 222,412

2. Short course entries in both nations in the same period, have fallen dramatically, but in England more rapidly than in Wales, almost certainly due to the removal of the short course in all subjects being removed from performance measures in England.
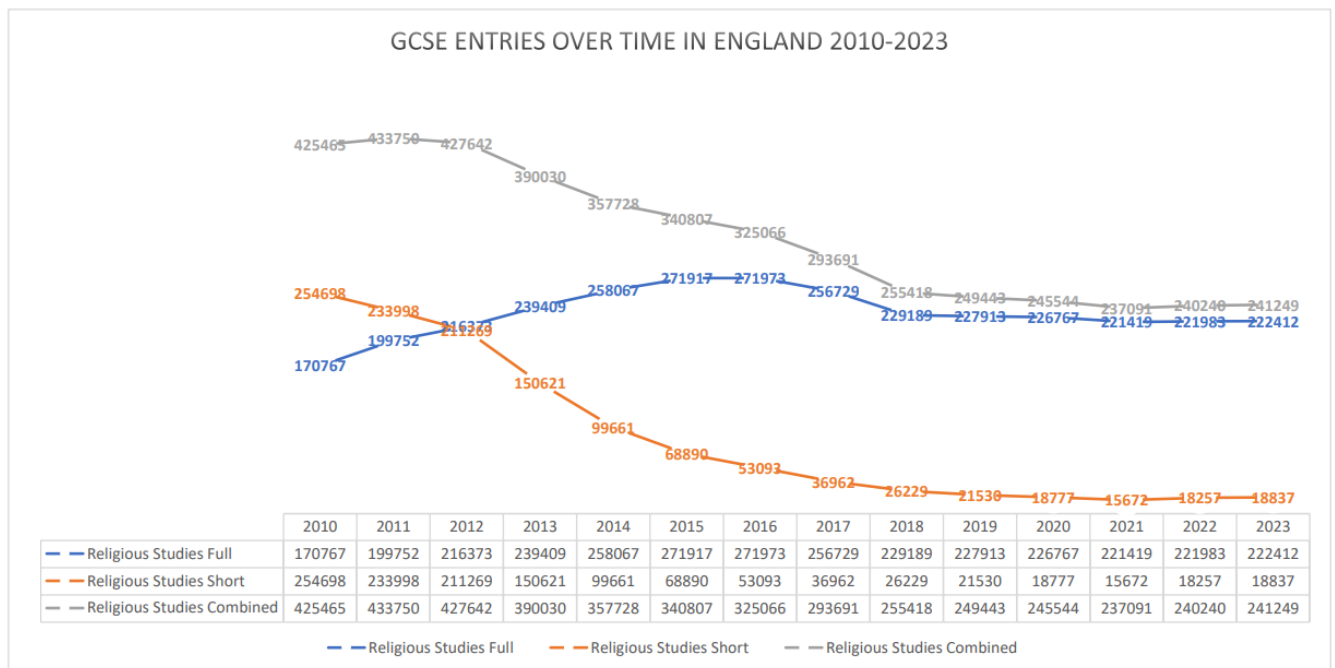In the same period, short course entries in England have fallen by just over 92% from 254,698 to 18,837.

3. Far fewer pupils in England and Wales leave school with a qualification in RS in 2023, than did in 2010

Whereas around 425,465 pupils in England entered a GCSE qualification in 2010, in 2023 only 241,249 pupils did so in 2023 – a fall of 184,216 pupils (43%).

4. The trend in Religious Studies Full course entries over the last 5-6 years has been stable at around 22,000 students in England.

GCSE ENTRIES OVER TIME IN ENGLAND 2010-2023

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Religious Studies Full	170767	199752	216373	239409	258067	271917	271973	256729	229189	227913	226767	221419	221983	222412
Religious Studies Short	254698	233998	211269	150621	99661	68890	53093	36962	26229	21530	18777	15672	18257	18837
Religious Studies Combined	425465	433750	427642	390030	357728	340807	325066	293691	255418	249443	245544	237091	240240	241249

A report on GCSE Religious Studies examination entries in 2023, Deborah Weston OBE:
Research Officer NATRE (September 2023)

When the school level data for the Local Authority is available, SACRE requests that the Local Authority investigates the provision of RE for non-examined students at KS4 and to remind schools of the statutory nature of RE for all students.

RE Quality Mark

Sefton SACRE encourages all schools to apply for the REQM mark. We will do this through courses, networks and newsletters. Additionally, Sefton schools are offered the opportunity for a review of their religious education with criteria based on the bronze REQM. It is hoped this can be a gateway to entry to the national quality mark.

Agenda Item 8

Professional development and support for schools

General support

During the year the professional support services of Pennine Learning were commissioned. Pennine Learning is a small company specialising in RE and community cohesion. The team at Pennine Learning will provide 15 days support per year in total, though this is arranged as flexibly as possible to facilitate effective working with schools and others. They also support SACREs and RE in West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, enabling appropriate collaboration and partnership.

Through the RE consultants, support will be available to schools, and used by teachers, in a number of ways, including:

- Maintenance of the syllabus and its schemes of work, including prompt response to queries or difficulties;
- Consultancy over specific or general RE issues, including advice about withdrawal from RE;
- Availability by phone, email or virtual meetings;
- Support for schools wishing to develop and improve RE following Ofsted inspections.

Training

The teachers group on SACRE have set up network meeting for teachers of RE to meet and share good practice. These networks are affiliated to NATRE and will be posted on the RE Hubs website. This will ensure that RE leaders are kept up to date with developments in RE nationally. The RE Consultant will also support these networks in advising what might be included e.g. work on subject knowledge provision mapping.

SACRE will in their work plan decide on other training and support for schools and this will be planned for and costed accordingly.

RE Reviews and SACRE RE Award

The review and award will be made available on line and face to face to as many schools as possible in the time available. A 'Deep Dive' in Religious Education is also offered to schools. This half-day session focuses on a review of curriculum provision, looking at its scope, rigour and sequencing. These opportunities will be promoted via RE networks and newsletters.

Other information

A range of guidance is available for all schools on a wide range of related areas, including:

- RE Policy
- Withdrawal from RE
- Collective Worship
- Celebrating Diversity
- Engaging with faith communities
- Sensitivity to Faith in Schools (Sharing the Journey)

Section Three: Statutory Responsibilities: Collective Worship

Standards and Monitoring of Collective Worship

Guidance is offered to schools and Ofsted reports are scrutinised in order to keep up to date with current issues and concerns. It has been difficult for schools to maintain an effective programme of collective worship during the pandemic and one of SACRE's key priorities in the coming year will be to remind, facilitate and support schools. This will include offering light-touch review conversations with practical suggestions.

Complaints and determinations

There were no complaints made during the year to SACRE about Collective Worship. There is no determination to vary statutory requirements in a maintained school in Sefton. The process for applying for a determination has been agreed in the period of this report. Responsibility for determinations in English academies and free schools rest with the Schools Funding Agency.

Professional development and support for schools

Through the consultant, SACRE is always ready to advise or support schools on request. It has been noted that some SACRE members are well-placed to support collective worship in schools and opportunities for discussion about this will be included on the agenda in 2023-24. A half-day course on planning for collective worship/ inclusive assemblies may be offered in summer 2024 to aid schools in developing an effective and inspiring programme. It is hoped that SACRE members will become more involved in practical support and monitoring. These questions may be helpful to SACRE members in reflecting on the value and effectiveness of collective worship in school:

1. Collective: How does the assembly celebrate and promote a sense of community within the whole school (or group)?
2. Educational: Is there a clear aim and focus, with appropriate learning? Does it engage and interest pupils and staff?

3. Spiritual: How does the assembly nurture pupils' awareness of their beliefs and values - and those of others (including non-religious beliefs)? How does it develop a sense of the meaning, purpose and value in their lives?

4. Reflective: Is there space and opportunity for thoughtful reflection, in the assembly or as a follow up? If prayers are used do these allow for different approaches and responses?

5. Inclusive: How does the assembly programme develop understanding of different perspectives and cultures? How does it promote values of tolerance, diversity and equality?

6. Responsive: How did pupils respond and participate?

Other information

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Guidance on good practice and protocols for withdrawal is available to schools; consultants are available if further support is needed. SACRE recognises parents' legal rights but hopes all children will be enabled to receive stimulating and balanced RE as part of their entitlement to a broad curriculum. Guidance is also provided to schools in fulfilling statutory obligations over collective worship and promoting good SMSC development.

Section Four: Links with other organisations

SACRE has developed active links with the following organisations:

- National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)
- The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC)
- Local faith organisations and interfaith groups
- Sefton School Improvement Service
- RE Today Services and NATRE
- The North West Hub of SACREs
- National RE Hubs

Section Five: Other areas of involvement

In October 2023 SACRE working with the Board of Deputies will host the Jewish Living Experience exhibition. This is an educational experience on understanding Judaism, featuring interactive exhibits and meeting people from the Jewish community.

School groups can book to visit the exhibition and we are also offering a teacher training session on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 4pm. The Jewish Living Experience will be available from Wednesday 11th October until Friday 20th October and will be hosted at Sefton PDC, 225 Park Road, Formby, L37 6EW.

Section Six: Sefton SACRE arrangements

Sefton MBC funds the operation of SACRE by contracting its consultants, providing a clerk and supporting its work through links with senior education officers.

SACRE membership includes representatives from all four constituent committees.

Group A   Faith and belief communities except for the Church of England

Group B   Anglican representatives

Group C   Teachers and schools

Group D   Sefton MBC

Membership and attendance for 2022-23 was as follows:

		Attendance
Buddhist	Vacancy	0
Hindu	Vacancy	0
Jewish	Gillian Moonman	4
Muslim	Vacancy	0
Muslim	Vacancy	0
Sikh	Vacancy	0
Humanist	Nick Senior	3
Bah'ai	Vacancy	0
Christian denominations (Methodist)	Vacancy	0
Christian denominations (Orthodox)	Vacancy	0
Christian denominations (RC)	Vacancy	0
Christian denominations (Pentecostal)	Vacancy	0
Christian denominations (Quaker)	Vacancy	0
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Vacancy	0
Christian denominations (Baptist)	Daniel Parkes	2
Christian denominations	Vacancy	0
Church of England	Sue Sullivan	2
Church of England	Andrew Norcross	3
Church of England	Vacancy	0
Church of England	Vacancy	0
Church of England	Vacancy	0
Teachers associations	Lauren Wood	1

Teachers associations	Natalie Ford (Vice Chair)	4
Headteacher Primary	Ruth Baldwin	4
Headteacher Primary	Paul Swift	2
Headteacher Primary Academy	Sarah Knipe	1
Headteacher Secondary Academy CEO	Ian Raikes	0
Headteacher Secondary Academy	Kate Campbell	4
Lydiate Learning Trust	Wendy Jack	1
Edge Hill University	Rebecca Johnson	3
Local authority	Diane Roscoe (Chair)	3
Local authority	Janet Grace	2
Local authority	Jacqui Patterson	4
Local authority	Veronica Webster	0
Local Authority	Carla Thomas	0
Local Authority	James Hansen	0
Local Authority	Carol Richards	0
Local Authority	Gareth Lloyd-Johnson	0

SACRE needs to ensure there continues to be consistent attendance and needs more teacher representatives. Contacts with partners, such as HE providers and the Diocese of Liverpool should be developed.

Training is provided by NASACRE and offered to SACRE members both locally and through the NASACRE webinars.

Section Seven: Advice to the Local authority

The following advice is given by SACRE to the local authority:

1. To review the funding of SACRE to ensure it is in line with national recommendations and good practice;

2. To review the membership of SACRE to ensure it reflects the breadth and diversity of the borough in terms of faiths and beliefs and schools structures.

3. To investigate the provision of quality teaching of RE at Key Stage Four for the non-examined students.

4. To provide opportunities for SACRE to work with other key areas of the Local Authority including the Communities team in order to support community cohesion.

No appendices are attached to this report; all the relevant information is contained within the main body. However, any further information can be requested via the clerk, Jane McNeice at Jane.McNeice@sefton.gov.uk

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 16 January 2024
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care)		Tuesday 23 January 2024
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Childrens Services & Safeguarding)		Tuesday 30 January 2024
Subject:	Serious Violence Duty		
Report of:	Assistant Director of People (Communities)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Communities & Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The serious violence duty came into force in January 2023 and requires specified authorities to publish a strategy by January 2024 to prevent and reduce serious violence. The work in preparing the strategy on Merseyside has been coordinated by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. The purpose of this report is to update members on the work undertaken so far this year and seek views on the draft strategy.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Members note the contents of the report

(2) Make any suggestions for change to the strategy and/or local delivery plan

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Serious Violence Duty is a statutory duty placed on relevant authorities of which Sefton is one. It is essential that members understand the work being undertaken to reduce and prevent serious violence.

Agenda Item 9

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

There are no alternative options

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A)   Revenue Costs

£101,161.68 – labour costs 2023/24
£122,302.81 – non-labour costs 2023/24

This funding has been retained and managed by the Office for the Police & Crime Commissioner to coordinate and deliver the duty across Merseyside.

(B)   Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Within existing resources

Legal Implications:
Sefton is a relevant authority and is therefore statutorily required to deliver the duty.

Equality Implications:
The Equality implications have been considered as part of the strategic needs assessment carried out by the Office for the Police & Crime Commissioner and have been mitigated within the strategy.

Impact on Children and Young People: Yes

Much of the preventive work is focused on Children and Young people as we know they are, particular vulnerable children and young people, most likely to become involved in serious violence.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

The Duty will have a neutral impact on the climate.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Some of the most vulnerable members of our community are victims of serious violence and this strategy and delivery plan will serve to protect them.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The strategy and delivery plan places a huge emphasis at coproduction with our communities to make them more aware of and more resilient to serious violence
Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7492/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5592/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B)   External Consultations

Meetings, strategy groups, consultation focus groups, emails

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Steve Martlew
Telephone Number:	0797388996
Email Address:	steven.martlew@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Serious Violence Timeline
Appendix 2 – Merseyside Serious Violence Draft Strategy v1

Agenda Item 9

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would introduce legislation relating to a serious violence duty. This aimed to ensure that relevant services work together to share information to target interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships and by making sure they have a strategy in place to explicitly tackle serious violence.

1.2 Whilst the guidance does not specify a particular partnership to lead, given the categories classed as "Serious Violence" are contained within the Community Safety Strategy, it makes sense that the Safer Sefton Together (SST) is the partnership lead body for Sefton.

1.3 The Duty requires partners to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention. There is a requirement to focus on root causes relevant to the local area and produce a Strategic Needs Assessment with contributions from Partners. This assessment will support local areas to prepare and implement a Serious Violence Strategy, with the ambition to prevent and reduce violent crime through tangible actions. The guidance offers case studies from partnerships that have already developed this area of work. Partners expected to form part of the strategic network include Police, Local Authorities, Fire Service, Health agencies, Youth Justice Services, Voluntary and Community Sector, Schools, and local Prisons.

1.4 Serious violence relates to homicide, domestic abuse, as well as all violence against the person including gun and knife crime. Partners have the flexibility to include alcohol related crime, modern slavery and violence towards women and girls if this is relevant to their area. In addition, partnerships need to focus on areas of criminality where threats are inherent, such as county lines and drug dealing territories.

1.5 At a Merseyside level it was agreed at strategic level that domestic abuse will not form part of the serious violence definition for the purpose of the Duty. The scale of domestic abuse cannot be underestimated, and the partnership recognise the impact of these incidents on victims, survivors, and their families, and will continue to support the pre-existing mechanisms in place across the region to oversee and govern activity to prevent domestic abuse and protect victims. The partnership will also continue to ensure preventative activity is directed at addressing underlying risk factors which are shared between domestic abuse and serious violence, to ensure a whole-systems approach to reducing risk and harm.

1.6 There is an expectation for partners to share data from a number of sources to develop a local picture. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 enables permissive information sharing.

1.7 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are not a specified authority under the Duty but have an important convening role and will be expected to carry out several functions relating to the Duty. In particular PCCs will have a role in convening partners, utilising their unique position as being responsible for the totality of crime and police in a force area. The 5 Local Authorities (LA's) agreed for the Merseyside PCCs office to coordinate the production of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and the production of a pan-Merseyside Serious Violence Strategy. The small amount of new burdens funding that accompanied the duty was partly used to fund a Coordinator post within the PCCs office.

2 Work to date

2.1 Appendix 1 is a timeline of the work undertaken within the last year.

2.2 <u>Readiness Assessment</u>

The Home Office commissioned Crest Advisory to work with each Police & Crime area to assess their readiness for the duty. Crest carried out a number of local workshops and assessed the Merseyside area as Ready & Engaged and working towards mature. It also assessed the risk of serious violence in Merseyside as

- Violence Severity – High
- Violence Vulnerability – Extremely High

2.3 As part of their readiness assessment work, Crest identified a need to support the relevant authorities across Merseyside to facilitate stronger co-production across existing governance structures. These workshops took place in July 2023.

2.4 <u>Consultation</u>

In September 2023 a consultation exercise to understand the perception of the problem, causes and consequences was undertaken. The consultation also sought to understand respondents awareness of prevention work and views on ways to improve this, as well as developing an understanding of what prevention means to different people. A universal consultation questionnaire was available to residents across Merseyside. Hosted by Liverpool City Council there was questionnaire for adults (18+) and children 11+. The links were promoted through social media and through the school network. In addition we carried out targeted engagement with cohorts identified as particularly vulnerable in the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA).

- Youth Justice Cohort
- Turnaround Cohort
- Youth Connectors Cohort
- Making A Difference Group
- Younger Care Experienced Group
- New Beginnings Group
- Uniformed Groups
- Commissioned Youth Providers

There were only 139 respondents to the universal questionnaires (adult and school) this poor response was replicated across the other Merseyside LA's. Unfortunately this means that the consultation response is not statistically reliable. The focus groups provided much richer feedback and this has been incorporated into the strategy.

2.5   Draft Strategy

The draft strategy (Appendix 2) was received on 8 December 2023 with initial feedback requested by 22 December 2023 so the version could be sent to the designers for a more polished version to be produced by 8 January 2024.

Members will note the strategy is very high level, very text heavy and requires a significant design work to make it more reader friendly. The version we are expecting from the designers in January 2024 will contain more photographs, infographics etc.

2.6   Local Delivery Plan

Members will be most interested in what this means locally for Sefton communities. The first draft of the Delivery Plan is currently being developed and will be mapped against the high level strategic aims of the strategy but also cross referenced to the priorities contained within the Safer Sefton Together Strategy 2023-26 and will be reviewed through 2024.

There is no additional funding for LA's to deliver the duty and therefore the delivery plan will reflect the work already underway in preventing and reducing serious violence in our Communities.

2.7   Strategy Launch

The strategy will be launched by the Police & Crime Commissioner on 9 February 2024.

3.   Review & Governance

3.1   The duty requires relevant authorities to annually review their strategy and delivery plan. Given the tight timescales encountered in implementing the strategy a full review will take place in 2024 and provide an opportunity for Overview & Scrutiny members to take an active part in that review.

3.2   The governance for the strategy and delivery plan will rest with the SST partnership.

Serious Violence Duty – Milestones and Timeline 2023-24

Milestone	Activity	Timeframe	Resource/Responsible
Serious Violence Duty (SVD) becomes law		January 2023	
Merseyside readiness assessment	Completed and submitted to Crest Advisory (MVRP)	January 2023	MVRP Time
OPCC Advertises Merseyside SVD coordinator roles	Recruitment begins	March 2023	OPCC
SVD workshops	Run by Crest Advisory Service attended by Steve Martlew	March-April 2023	SMBC Time
Crest Advisory Readiness Assessment Due	Review of Crest Advisory Readiness Assessment for Merseyside in conjunction with local assessment	April-May 2023	Crest Advisory SMBC Time
OPCC Appointment of SVD Coordinator	Meet with new coordinators	April-May 2023?	OPCC/SMBC
Notify Comms teams of deadline for publishing Strategy	Senior Responsible Organisations (SRO) Reps to notify comms leads and plan for January 2024 publication of strategy on websites	April-May 2023	SROs and their respective comms teams
MVRP Publish Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)	**Review MVRP SNA** for any addition data required for Sefton. Are there any new Information Sharing Agreements required?	May-June 2023	MVRP SMBC Time
Workshop 1 – with strategic leads – SRO & 1 Strategic Lead (Crest Advisory Support Work)	Strategic advice and support to Merseyside to facilitate stronger co-production across existing governance structures.	5 July 2023	MVRP Crest Advisory SMBC Time
Workshop 2 – with strategic leads – Strategic Lead (Crest Advisory Support Work)	Strategic advice and support to Merseyside to facilitate stronger co-production across existing governance structures.	13 July 2023	MVRP Crest Advisory SMBC Time
Consultation on development of Strategy:	Consultation on perception of the problem, causes and consequences. As well as awareness of prevention work and views on ways to improve this, as well as developing an	September 2023	LCC to host the pan-Merseyside survey on their website and their digital team will be monitoring demographics to increase engagement throughout the period of consultation. All SST partners to

Serious Violence Duty – Milestones and Timeline 2023-24

Milestone	Activity	Timeframe	Resource/Responsible
	understanding of what prevention means to different people. Universal Consultation as well as targeted engagement with cohorts identified as particularly vulnerable in the SNA. • LCC-led formal consultation. • Youth Justice Cohort • Turnaround Cohort • Youth Connectors Cohort • Making A Difference Group • Younger Care Experienced Group • New Beginnings Group • Uniformed Groups • Commissioned Youth Providers		participate and support facilitation/access to participants experts by experience.
Draft Strategy	MVRP to circulate the draft strategy Feedback by relevant authorities to be with MVRP	8 December 2023 22 December 2023	MVRP SMBC Time
SST Review of Strategy before publishing	Partners to provide any feedback as part of feedback process above	January 2024	SST Partners time
Report to O&S Committee	Share strategy with O&S Committee before final strategy published	January 2024	SMBC Time
Strategy Design and Easy Read / Child Friendly Version Produced	Submission of content to designer by Copy circulated to relevant authorities for review by	22 December 2023 8 January 2024 12 January 2024	MVRP MVRP SMBC Time

Serious Violence Duty – Milestones and Timeline 2023-24

Milestone	Activity	Timeframe	Resource/Responsible
	Feedback from relevant authorities on final amendments by		
Deadline for SV Strategy to be published on all Senior Responsible Organisations' websites	All SROs to publish copy of the Strategy on their websites.	31 January 2024	SRO Comms teams
SST Conference – Launch of SV Strategy	Launch Event 10.00 – 15.00 Venue to be confirmed	9 February 2024	**£££** Funding for Conference – Venue hire/refreshments? SST Partners' time
Review of SV Strategy	Annual review of strategy required under SVD Guidance	April 2024 - December 2024	SST Partnership
Deadline for reviewed SV strategy to be published on SRO websites	All SROs to publish copy of the Strategy on their websites if any amendments made	January each year	SMBC Time

<u>Notes on the strategy</u>

SVD Guidance states that the strategy should set out:

- Local Arrangements
- Multi-agency response to drivers identified in SNA
- Proposed actions - Measurable
- Consideration of joint-funding or investment
- How the partnership focuses on early intervention and prevention (and what this means to people in Sefton)

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STRATEGY TEMPLATE

Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

Serious Violence Duty

Strategy

Merseyside

*Include high resolution logos from across each Specified and Relevant Authority.

Agenda Item 9

Foreword:

*Foreword to be drafted by PCC.

Introduction

National Context

2018

In April 2018, the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England. The strategy called on partners from across different sectors to come together and adopt multi-agency public health approach to tackling and preventing serious violence at a local level.

2019

In March 2019, the Home Secretary announced £100 million Serious Violence Fund to help tackle serious violence. Of this, £35 million was invested in Violence Reductions Units (VRUs) in 18 police force areas deemed worst affected by serious violence (including Merseyside), to build capacity in local areas to tackle the root causes of serious violence. Since 2019, VRUs have been backed by £225 million and are now established in 20 areas. Hotspot policing is another critical part of the local and national approach to preventing serious violence and the same 20 police force areas supported by VRU funding have also received funding through the Grip programme to boost police forces capacity to take a data driven approach to tackling serious violence.

2022

On 28th April 2022, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act received Royal Assent. The PCSC Act introduced several measures to tackle serious violence, including a new Serious Violence Duty (the 'Duty') which sets out that partners including the police, fire and rescue, health, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services, must work collaboratively and share data and information in order to put in place a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

2023

On 31st January 2023, the Serious Violence Duty commenced.

Serious Violence is complex and multi-faceted, and with an estimated cost of over £185.4 million to the Merseyside region, partners have both a moral responsibility to protect and prevent further harm to communities as well as a fiscal imperative to do so[1]. These lower-volume, higher-harm types of violence pervade society, causing significant harm to communities. However, **violence is preventable**, and this underlines the importance of partners working together in adopting a Public Health, Whole Systems Approach to violence reduction. It is within this context that the Government have introduced the Serious Violence Duty ("the Duty").

What is the Duty?

The Duty commenced on **31st January 2023** and is one of many provisions included within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ("the PCSC Act", introduced to Parliament in March 2021[2]), forming a key part of the Government's commitment to reduce and prevent serious violence.

It places a Duty on public bodies (known as Specified and Relevant Authorities) to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, ensuring relevant services work together to share data and knowledge, and target interventions to prevent serious violence altogether.

Under the Duty, partners must work together to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in their local area, the causes of that violence, and use this evidence-based analysis to develop a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and prepare and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence locally.

This strategy has been produced to comply with the legislative requirements, setting out how public bodies operating in the local policing body area of Merseyside will collaborate locally to ensure a co-ordinated approach to preventing and reducing serious violence. It sets out the agreed definition of serious violence and the

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[1] Economic and Social Costs of Violence on Merseyside: A report for Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, Liverpool John Moores University.
[2] Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022.

partnership arrangements which have been agreed locally to lead on the delivery of the Duty. It also provides an executive summary of the serious violence SNA produced by the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (MVRP), details of the consultation activity to engage communities, and the bespoke actions that have been agreed by the partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Specified and Relevant Authorities are referred to as the 'partnership' within this strategy, and include:

- Merseyside Police
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board
- Probation.
- Youth Offending Teams.
- HMP Liverpool
- HMP Altcourse.
- Wirral Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Sefton Council
- Knowsley Council
- St Helens Council

What does this mean for Merseyside?

It means that partners, including police, probation, youth offending teams, fire and rescue authorities, health, and local authorities, are now required by law to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. Whilst this is a new legal responsibility, preventing serious violence and harm has always been a priority for partners in Merseyside, and this new law

"this new law will support partners to work together in the most effective way."
"this new law will simply let partners work together better"
"this new law will simply allow partners to improve how they work together"
"and under this new responsibility, partners can improve how they work together"

Table above

Definition of Serious Violence

For the purposes of the Duty, Merseyside have adopted the local definition of serious violence used for data recording purposes by Merseyside Police and subsequently adopted by the MVRP. This ensures consistency across the region in relation to understanding demand and impact and aligns with the existing partnership focus on violent offending in public spaces. The local definition is:

Include the below definition in an infographic:

"All knife crime or firearms enabled offences, including the following categories:

- Attempt murder
- Assault with intent to cause serious harm (wounding with intent to do GBH (S18 Assault), causing bodily injury by explosion or torture)
- Business and personal robbery
- Threats to kill
- Assault with injury
- Racially or religiously and other form of hate aggravated assault with injury
- Assault with injury on a constable
- Rape
- Sexual assault against a female
- Sexual assault against a male
- Endangering life
- Homicide

Non-knife crime or firearms-enabled offences:

- Homicide plus attempt murder
- Assault with intent to cause serious harm (wounding with intent to do GBH (S18 Assault), Causing bodily injury by explosion or torture)
- Arson with intent to endanger life
- Assault with injury on a constable (only including cause GBH with intent to resist, prevent arrest, wounding with intent to do GBH and wounding with intent)
- All other robbery"

Include below in infographic:

Within the above definition, Merseyside Police recorded **45,543** serious violence incidents in 2022/23. This is a 3% reduction on the previous year.

Domestic Abuse

Locally, the partnership agreed at strategic level that **domestic abuse will not form part of the serious violence definition for the purpose of the Duty.** The scale of domestic abuse cannot be underestimated, and the partnership recognise the impact of these incidents on victims, survivors, and their families, and will continue to support the pre-existing mechanisms in place across the region to oversee and govern activity to prevent domestic abuse and protect victims. The partnership will also continue to ensure preventative activity is directed at addressing underlying risk factors which are shared between domestic abuse and serious violence, to ensure a whole-systems approach to reducing risk and harm.

Pre-existing mechanisms, set out below, lie at the heart of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and its wider programme of work.

Include definition of domestic abuse as per Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the local strategies and governance structure in place to provide reassurance of the work underway to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence - *or include in appendix.*

Include in infographic - Whilst a shared definition of serious violence brings consistency, this will not prevent the local partnership from focussing preventative activity on other areas of violence outside the scope of the definition, however the local partnership acknowledge that this activity will not be the subject of the Duty. (Include this in a box within design).

Purpose:

Vision & Core Function:

Vision:

Violence is preventable, not inevitable. Aligning to existing partnership visions, objectives, and deliverables, we want to create a safer, stronger, Merseyside, where communities are free from violence and the fear of violence.

Community cohesion is at the core of our vision.

Community cohesion fosters a sense of belonging – connecting individuals to a place, a group, and a community. This promotes positive interactions within a local area, which can enhance feelings of safety. It improves how communities feel about where they live, cultivates positive feelings towards others, including towards statutory services, and most importantly improves overall wellbeing.

To create a safer, stronger, Merseyside, we pledge to empower our communities to actively participate in matters that affect them and that they care about, providing support and capacity building to enable meaningful and mutually beneficial engagement.

"Let's say it together: 'All one and for all'. It could be perfect – None could deny it!"
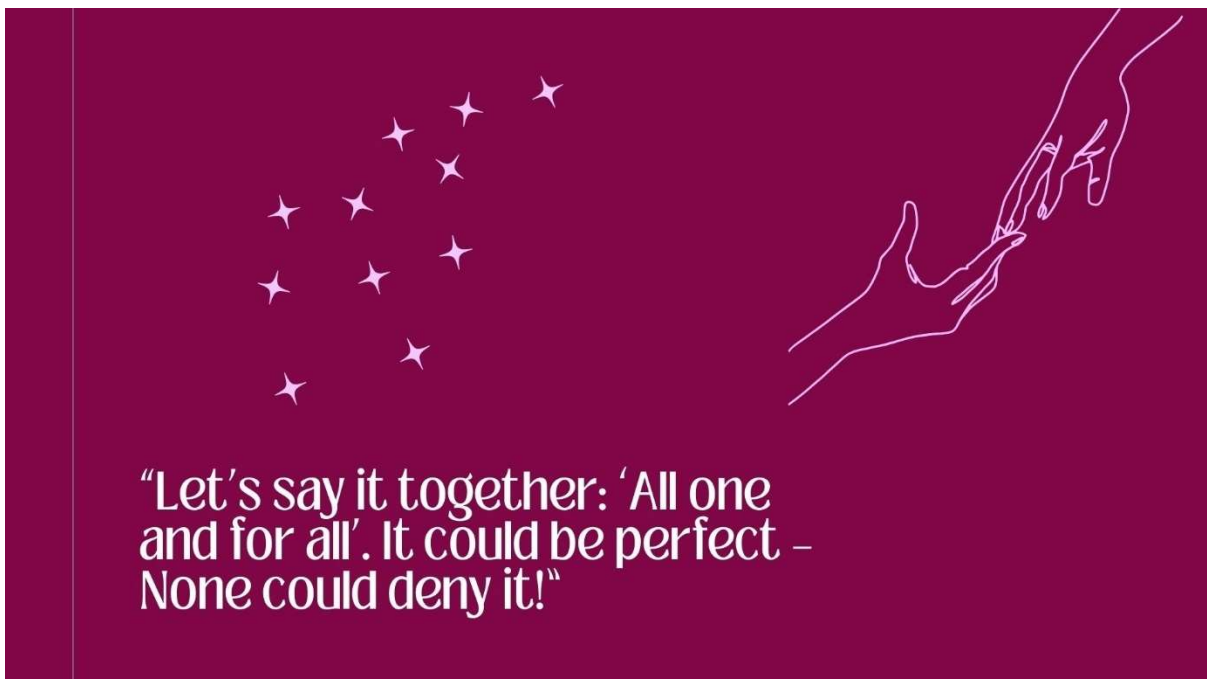
With thanks to the children and young people at St Margaret Mary's, as well as the wider family and community members in Knowsley, who powerfully articulate the true power of people in contributing to a society free from violence and the fear of violence.

The True Power of People

Say it together: 'All One and For All!'

[The True Power of People - YouTube](#)

Core Function:

We want the prevention and reduction of serious violence related risk and harm to be everyone's responsibility. We recognise that the causes and consequences of serious violence are complex and require well-coordinated approaches with clear policy directives and interventions that are implemented across all relevant partners at a local level.

As a partnership, we will provide strategic direction, coordination, and leadership across Merseyside to embed and integrate a multi-agency, whole systems, public health approach to serious violence prevention. Working closely with key stakeholders and communities, we will create a culture which fosters shared ownership, accountability, and mutually beneficial collaboration – advocating for a system where everyone feels included and understands their role, and the role of others, in supporting communities at risk of, or affected by, serious violence.

What does this mean for Merseyside?

It means that partners and communities will work together to make Merseyside a safe place to live, visit, and work. Everyone will understand what they can do to support people who are affected by serious violence. It also means that as a partnership, we will be creating opportunities for people who are affected by serious violence so that they can tell us what is really needed to prevent serious violence from happening altogether.

Public Health Approach

Include quotes as infographics / large texts to visualise the page

> "Violence is a public health issue because living without fear of violence is a fundamental requirement for health and wellbeing. It's also a public health issue because violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing and is strongly related to inequalities."

> "A public health approach to violence prevention seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence".

To deliver the aims and objectives of this strategy, the local partnership will collaborate and plan within a whole-systems, public health framework, to support the implementation of effective policies, processes, and interventions which seek to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Adhering to a public health approach, the partnership will seek to align delivery across multiple tiers of intervention; primary (interventions to prevent violence from happening in the first place), secondary (interventions to address risk factors and prevent an emerging problem becoming established), and tertiary (managing an ongoing problem to reduce harm, focussed on reducing offending and reoffending) to address risk factors and build resilience across different stages of the life course:

The life course approach, championed locally by the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, addresses health and social needs across all stages of the life course when developing universal and targeted violence prevention policy and activity. [3]

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[3] Homepage - Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (merseysidevrp.com)

In doing so, this strategy will have a strong emphasis on addressing the root causes of serious violence, whilst integrating a strengths-based model of delivery which focuses on identifying the strengths, as well as the needs, of communities, to build upon and strengthen protective factors to reduce serious violence at a population level more effectively.

We will adapt evidence of what works locally to direct resource allocation to areas of high demand, need, and vulnerability, coordinating and aligning sustainable preventative approaches across geographical and organisational boundaries. This will promote progressive cultural change, encouraging whole systems to think and act more innovatively, and work together to achieve shared outcomes through local integrated delivery plans, pooled resources, and expertise to embed long-term change.

Why a Public Health Approach?

"Violence is not something that just happens, nor is it normal or acceptable in our society. Many of the key risk factors that make individuals, families, or communities vulnerable to violence are changeable, including exposure to adverse experiences in childhood and subsequently the environments in which individuals live, learn and work throughout youth, adulthood, and older age. Understanding these factors means we can develop and adopt new public health-based approaches to violence. Such approaches focus on the primary prevention of violence through reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors over the life course" [4]

"Violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing as well as a drain on health services and the wider economy. However, it is preventable using measures that save much more money than they cost to implement. Interventions, especially those in early childhood, not only prevent individuals developing a propensity for violence but also improve educational outcomes, employment prospects and long-term health outcomes. Abuse in childhood increases risks of violence in later life, but also risks of cancer, heart disease, sexually transmitted infections, substance use, and a wide range of health conditions that are currently stretching health care resources."

Our Approach: (below included an infographic to minimise text heavy summary)

1 - Defining the problem

It is important that we understand the extent and nature of serious violence within our local communities, including identifying who or where may be most vulnerable to serious violence.

➢ Effective multi-agency data sharing is critical to this, and we will continue to work with partners to improve the quantity and quality of the data we collect to develop our understanding of serious violence and the burden it imposes on individuals, families, communities, and wider society.

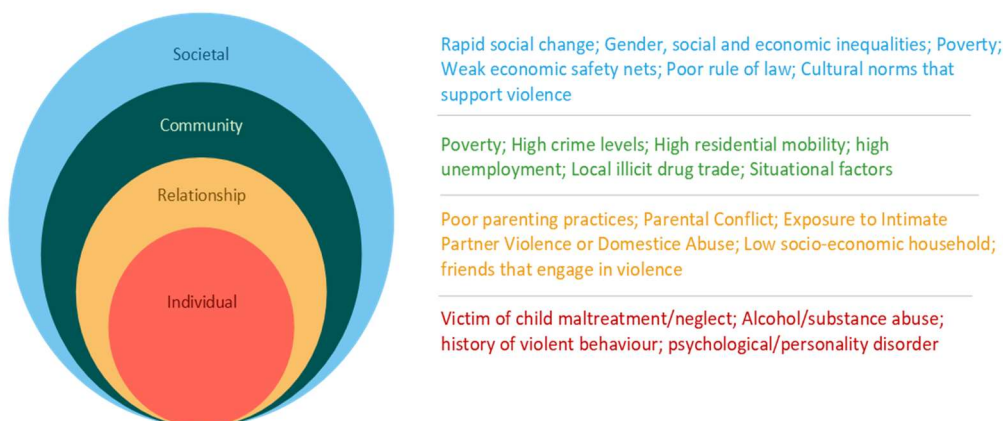
[4] Violence-prevention.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

- ➢ To truly understand the nature of serious violence, we must also ensure that the voices and lived experiences of our communities are central to our approach, and we will continue to work with and for our local communities to develop our understanding of local drivers.
- ➢ Identifying the societal costs of violence also serves as a useful starting point to demonstrate the 'size of the problem' to policy makers, providing an evidence base for investing in preventative activity at strategic and operational level. Using the current cost analysis commissioned by MVRP and produced by Liverpool John Moores University, we can begin to understand the longer-term impact of investment on preventing the realisation of the costs of violence and reducing the future economic burden.

2 - Identifying risk and protective factors:

There exists a wide range of interconnected factors relating to individuals, their relationships, and the communities and societies in which they live, which may increase ('risk factors') or decrease ('protective factors') vulnerability to violence. Identifying these factors and understanding the complex cumulative impact of risk and protective factors on victimisation and perpetration of serious violence is key to our approach as it enables us to identify at risk populations and target resource allocation to meet local demand or need.

- ➢ We will continue to work with key stakeholders and our communities, remaining cognisant to changing political landscapes, to understand existing and emerging factors. This will involve working closely with the MVRP Evidence Hub, as well as with the Integrated Care Board who are developing a violence and injuries dashboard to identify patterns and understand the risk factors to violent crime.

The ecological framework: examples of risk factors for violence at each level

Societal: Rapid social change; Gender, social and economic inequalities; Poverty; Weak economic safety nets; Poor rule of law; Cultural norms that support violence

Community: Poverty; High crime levels; High residential mobility; high unemployment; Local illicit drug trade; Situational factors

Relationship: Poor parenting practices; Parental Conflict; Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence or Domestice Abuse; Low socio-economic household; friends that engage in violence

Individual: Victim of child maltreatment/neglect; Alcohol/substance abuse; history of violent behaviour; psychological/personality disorder

5

3 - Develop and evaluate interventions

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[5] https://www.who.int/groups/violence-prevention-alliance/approach

It is important that we understand the impact of our partnership approach on preventing and reducing serious violence. Considering evidence of impact does not mean we will suppress innovation; however, we will ensure the right balance between delivery with strong evidence of impact whilst creating the conditions to support partners in developing the evidence base for delivery which may have good potential.

- ➢ Using evidence-based resources, we will continue to develop and embed approaches which are known to deliver the highest impact for populations at risk of, or already involved in, serious violence.
- ➢ Whilst quantitative data is fundamental to evaluating effectiveness, we will also work closely with our key partners and communities to understand what works, where, and for whom, so that we can ensure strategic and operational activity is responsive to need at a hyper-local level.

4 - Implementing effective policy and programmes

It is important that we monitor and evaluate the impact and cost-effectiveness of partnership activity over the short, medium, and longer term when implementing processes and interventions which seek to prevent and reduce serious violence related risk and harm. This enables us to build upon our understanding of 'what works' and crucially 'what doesn't work'. Not only does this reduce harm to communities by ensuring maximum impact, but it also makes the case for investing in preventative activity and provides partners with an evidence base to prioritise resources more effectively in the long-term.

- ➢ This will involve working closely with the MVRP to build the evidence base on 'what works' at a local level, utilising the many evaluations which have been conducted by Liverpool John Moores University at whole system and intervention level to identify how we can work at scale to deliver improved outcomes for our communities.

What does this mean for Merseyside?

There are some factors which make people more vulnerable to serious violence. This means that some people may be more likely to be a victim or perpetrator of serious violence and may also be more likely to witness serious violence. It also means that certain places may have more serious violence than others.

A public health approach means that we will work together to understand these factors and work out how we can address them by stepping in early to prevent serious violence from happening altogether. Where serious violence may have already happened, it means preventing violence from getting worse to reduce the risk and harm to individuals, families, and communities.

Local examples of embedding a Public Health Approach.

Agenda Item 9

Since 2019, the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership have been embedding a public health 'whole systems' approach to tackling the root causes of serious violence – seeing violence as preventable, not inevitable – and the evidence shows it's already having an impact.

The MRVP takes a multi-pronged approach. At strategic level, the MVRP provides leadership on the public health approach to violence reduction across Merseyside through a multiagency co-located delivery team and steering group, developing localised policy, practice, and targeted communications to support system change and capacity to prevent violence.

The MVRP also funds a suite of primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions to prevent violence with a focus on early intervention, life course, place-based, and community led approaches, delivered across five key priority areas: early years, education, health, whole family approaches, and preventing offending, with all decisions informed by the best available evidence.

Blue light datasets from the Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group (TIIG) provide the basis for all decision making. This data provides insight into demand, informing where and what interventions are prioritised. It's also used to monitor and evaluate the performance of interventions to measure success. This work is led by the MVRP's Evidence Hub who have been embedded within the team for the past two years and whose work has been invaluable - driving improvements in processes, data capture, and evidence identification. This has all helped to further deepen the MVRP's understanding of the serious violence landscape in Merseyside and the approaches needed to continue to reduce serious violence. This evidence-based approach is further enhanced by the frequent sharing of best practice, ideas and learning with local partners and other Violence Reduction Units, as well as also using external data sources.

Key achievements:

- A peer education programme - Merseyside Youth Association's Mentors in Violence Prevention – which provides young people with the language and framework to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of abuse, while building resilience and promoting positive mental health. By supporting a 'whole school' approach to early intervention and prevention of bullying, harassment and risky behaviours, this programme empowers pupils to identify and communicate concerns with both peers and school staff.
- Nearly 300 professionals from 13 different organisations receiving training to identify the underlying causes of offending to help ensure people with neurodiverse conditions get the support they need to prevent them from reoffending. This training was the result of research carried out by The Brain Charity to better understand the local landscape and potential for criminal justice reform for neurodiverse people across the region – read the report here.
- Support for children born during the Covid-19 pandemic to help ensure they were ready to start school. With insight from the MVRP Evidence Hub, key hotspot areas were selected to receive targeted early years interventions,

including Reading to Bump, Monkey Bob, and Look Say Sing Play, which seeks to deliver improved long-term population health outcomes.
- One of the first organisations in the country to hold a gambling harms event, featuring case studies and input from counselling services and senior police officers to highlight the breadth and scope of gambling-related harms, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

These results are testament to the strong partnership and collaborative approach adopted by the MVRP and the tireless work of the many organisations involved, all of which are committed to ensuring Merseyside is a place where people can live, work, and visit free from violence and fear of violence.

Spotlight:

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Probation Service

Recognising the role that high quality employment and training opportunities can play in preventing prison leavers and those on probation from reoffending, the MVRP has forged strong links between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Probation Service with a focus on co-location. This includes being the first VRU in the country to have a member of DWP staff seconded into the core team. This move has reaped significant results. Through DWP Prison Work Coaches (PWC) working part-time in Probation Service offices, ex-offenders now have direct access to training and employment opportunities

This work has been recognised as good practice at a roundtable with the Minister for Social Mobility & Youth Progression, Mim Davies MP, and Damian Hinds MP, Prisons & Probation Minister. It was also shortlisted for a national award for innovative partnership at the APCC-NPCC conference and other areas of the country are keen to replicate this model.

Local Partnership Arrangements

As a partnership, we want the prevention and reduction of serious violence related risk and harm to be everyone's responsibility. Building on existing partnership infrastructure, strengths, and capabilities, we will create a system which fosters shared ownership, accountability, and mutually beneficial collaboration so that everyone understands their role, and the role of others, in supporting communities at risk of, or affected by, serious violence.

Ensuring the principles of a public health approach are the golden thread through strategic, operational, and tactical delivery lies at the heart of our approach, and this strategy will provide the framework for partners to work together to implement whole-systems approaches to addressing serious violence. The public health approach is underpinned by community consensus, which recognises that the community's engagement in the serious violence response is essential, and the partnership will collaborate and co-produce with key stakeholders, including communities, to create a safer, stronger Merseyside.

Using the 5 C's principles, the partnership will work to deliver a shared vision which addresses and responds to the specific needs of the local community, establishing Merseyside as a place where people are free from violence and the fear of violence, and where there are meaningful opportunities for all. We will empower local communities, sustainably building skills, resilience, and resource to tackle serious violence, ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives within the community are not only heard, but amplified. [6]

By building our awareness on issues that are impacting our communities, we are better able to form a sustainable feedback loop to inform and focus partnership activity and improve the multi-agency approach to preventing and reducing serious violence. It will also enable the partnership to build effective and consistent approaches to serious violence communications, ensuring key messages are targeted and outcomes focussed so that partners and communities understand the actions being taken to prevent and reduce serious violence. This will play an important role in guiding the strategic direction of the partnership and should be underpinned by a shared set of values and behaviours.

Core Principles of Our Approach:

Innovative and Strengths Based → To ensure that our approach is responsive to the specific needs of the local community, building upon the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections, and potential in a community to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Apolitical and Tailored to Local Need → To support a cultural shift around embedding a public health approach to serious violence prevention within organisational and partnership ways of working, ensuring resilience against any potential for the funding environment to change our focus.

Inclusive → To empower diverse voices and perspectives within the community, providing us with a broader perspective on local serious violence issues and expertise that only those most impacted by serious violence can offer, including people with lived experience.

Meaningful → To ensure that stakeholders, especially members of the community, can see their input within the local approach to serious violence, through robust feedback loops and direct involvement in key decisions around the design and delivery of activities.

Aspirational → To ensure greater alignment between organisations and communities, supporting communities to develop new skills to ensure that work on serious violence prevention is sustainable, delivered by communities, as well as ensuring that existing community work is amplified, well-resourced, and valued.

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[6] A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Trauma Informed → To understand that different life experiences can shape our behaviour and opportunities and ensure this is reflected in our interactions with partners and communities and influences our decision making.

Whole Systems → To develop a coordinated approach to tackle the root causes of violence, building capacity across organisations and communities so that everyone understand their role and contribution to the prevention serious violence.

Sustainable → To develop cultural and financial sustainability, ensuring policies, processes, and funding models are focussed on improving population health outcomes to embed long-term change and are unaffected by political and contextual changes.

- Collaboration – A collaborative approach requires those who understand the broader implications of violence to generate a collective understanding across all partners within the local system.

- Co-production - The approach and workstreams undertaken locally to prevent and tackle violence should be informed by the multi-agency perspectives of all partners.

- Co-operation in data and intelligence sharing – Data and information sharing is a key enabler for all multi-agency approaches.

- Counter narrative development – Work with community members to create opportunities for development and the option to pursue alternatives to criminal activities. Partnerships should help to support positive aspirations and promote positive role models.

- Community consensus - Community consensus lies at the heart of a place-based multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention. The approach must be with and for local communities, it should empower them to actively participate and get involved in tackling issues that affect them collectively. This is essential for legitimacy and for any 'new' work being carried out by partners (particularly statutory work) to be seen as valid by communities

*Include examples of effective co-production locally as spotlights

Liverpool SV forum? Jill/Susan to review if you think this is appropriate?

Probation Service User Forum? Mary/Jayne to review if you think this is appropriate?

We will:

To embed whole-systems, cultural change, we are committed to reviewing strategic, operational, and cultural assets available within the region to understand where we can build upon what is working well, as well as how we can use the Duty as an opportunity to add value to and compliment existing activity. We are also committed to working with communities to develop a coordinated and consistent approach to communications, empowering communities to actively participate in matters that affect them, supporting participatory approaches which meaningfully involve communities in the design, delivery, and evaluation of serious violence prevention work.

What does this mean for Merseyside?

This means that

Governance and Accountability:

Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board

Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, as lead convener for the Duty, will lead on supporting Specified and Relevant Authorities implementation and compliance with the Duty at a local level due to their responsibility for the totality of policing in their area, as well as services for victims. The Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board (MSPPB), chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner, will act as the governance mechanism for delivery of the Duty and the Commissioner will collaborate with the local partnership to provide strategic leadership, coordination, and support to ensure compliance and delivery of the action plans contained within this strategy.

The MSPPB brings senior leaders from all the partner organisations together to focus on key policing and community safety issues across Merseyside and ensure the priorities set out in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan are being delivered. The Board acts as an oversight body for several existing sub-groups which focus on improving the effectiveness of the response to policing and community safety issues, including serious violence. Serious Violence Duty Senior Responsible Officers are key members of the Board and work across the partnership to ensure a safer Merseyside.

(Include in box within the design to make the strategy more visible?).

Serious Violence Duty Tactical Oversight Group

There is an established Tactical Oversight Group which drives local delivery of the Duty, including membership from representatives from each of the Specified and Relevant Authorities and the wider partnership. The Group enables knowledge and information exchange, dissemination of operational learning, and maximises opportunities for collaboration and co-commissioning to enhance the service being

delivered to communities. Using the Duty SNA, localised Strategic Intelligence Assessments, and consultation outputs, the Group seeks to understand implementation and impact to promote and maintain a high level of operational assurance that partnership activity is achieving anticipated outcomes. Membership is dynamic and we will continue to ensure that all partners to have an equal voice in decision making, identifying where there may be gaps in expertise and creating opportunities for partners to collaborate to embed serious violence outcomes in delivery and governance.

What does this mean for Merseyside?

This means that there are processes in place for us to make sure that we are achieving what we say we are going to do to prevent and reduce serious violence. If we are not seeing a reduction in serious violence and our communities do not feel safe, we will continue to work together to understand what else we can do to support our communities.

Interdependencies

Local partnership arrangements were agreed to minimise adding complexity to the current landscape, recognising the effective partnership work already embedded across the region to address violence and vulnerability. There are multiple interdependencies and multi-agency strategies established nationally and locally that deliver on the objectives of this strategy, and the partnership are committed to ensuring alignment and consistency in approach. The below is not an exhaustive list but visualises strategies implemented by statutory partners which play a crucial role in preventing and minimising the impact of serious violence locally.

Circle diagram with "Serious Violence Duty." in the centre, surrounded by the following surrounding plans and strategies:

- Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan.
- HM Prison & Probation Service North West Reducing Reoffending Plan
- Cheshire and Merseyside Joint Forward Plan.
- Merseyside Criminal Justice Board.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- LUHFT Our Future Together Strategy.
- Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Strategy.
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Delivery Plan.
- Merseyside Police Force Strategy.
- Local Authority Community Safety Strategies.
- LUHFT Quality and Safety Strategy.
- Merseyside Police Operation Interface.
- Home Office Serious Violence Strategy.
- Local Authority Youth Offending Team Plans.
- Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Serious Violence Response Strategy
- Merseyside Police GRIP.

What does this mean for Merseyside?

This means that there already lots of plans in place locally and nationally to prevent and reduce serious violence. However, we will be working together over the next two years to make sure that we can work together better to establish Merseyside as a place free from violence and the fear of violence.

Serious Violence in Merseyside (Summary of the Strategic Needs Assessment of Violence)

In order to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur, and so far as it is possible to do so, the causes of that serious violence, the Duty requires that the partnership work together to establish the local SNA – identifying the drivers of serious violence acting in the local area and the cohorts of people most affected or at risk.

The SNA, produced by the MVRP, has been used as a baseline product by the local partnership to meet the requirements of the Duty. It is a living document which provides an evidence-based, public health assessment of serious violence across Merseyside, within the definition set out above.

Specifically, the SNA:

- Highlights the prevalence of serious violence in Merseyside using multiple data and information sources to identify risks and opportunities for prevention.
- Provides an overview of the local context, as well as takes steps to identify the areas and populations most affected.
- Identifies the drivers of serious violence, as well as the risk and protective factors for violence in Merseyside. This includes an assessment of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.
- Explores perceptions of serious violence and wider health determinants through continued youth and community engagement efforts to provide a holistic understanding of serious violence as experienced by individuals, families and communities.
- Highlights the estimate cost of serious violence in Merseyside.

Context:

Include the below in a concise infographic to visualise the context of Merseyside.

- Home to almost 1.5 million people, Merseyside comprises five boroughs, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton, Wirral, and the city of Liverpool.
- Using the Index of Multiple Deprivation, two of Merseyside's Local Authorities are among the 10% most deprived in England. Knowsley (ranked 3) and Liverpool (Ranked 4). St Helens is ranked at 40, Wirral at 77 and Sefton at 89
- The most densely populated areas of Merseyside are found in Liverpool, in the wards of Walton South, Wavertree South, Kensington, Anfield East, and Toxteth Park.
- Knowsley continues to house the highest number of 0–15-year-olds.
- Liverpool sees the highest number of young adults (16-34), most older adults (35-64) are spread across Sefton and St Helens, and those of retirement age (65+) are spread across Sefton and Wirral.
- There are more females than males in Merseyside, with the highest percentage of female residents in Knowsley (52.2%).
- Liverpool has the largest LGB+ community in Merseyside, at 4.42% of the population which is higher than the England and Wales average of 3.2%; the smallest is Knowsley at 2.32%. Liverpool also has the largest community of people whose gender identity is different from what as registered at birth, at 0.69% of the local population.
- Considering ethnicity and race, the Local Authority with the highest proportion of White British residents is St Helens at 96.5%, followed by Sefton (95.8%), Knowsley (95.3%, a reduction from 98% in 2021/22), Wirral (95.2%), and Liverpool (84.0%).
- Within Liverpool, Toxteth Park ward is the most diverse area with 30.3% of residents identifying as White British. Interestingly, a very specific MSOA within this ward is 8% White British (E00176718), with 67.6% of residents identifying as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.
- As of July 2022 there are 171 Traveller caravans in Merseyside, 70 in Sefton, 56 in St Helens, 25 in Wirral, 20 in Liverpool, and 0 in Knowsley.
- 5% of the residents across Merseyside were born outside the UK. This percentage is significantly higher in Liverpool, in which 14.9% were born outside the UK. The top countries of birth are Poland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the Middle East, China, and EU countries.

- There are two Her Majesty's Prisons (HMP) in Merseyside, HMP Liverpool and HMP Altcourse. HMP Liverpool is a Category B local prison, receiving sentenced and remand adult male prisoners. For historical reasons it is known locally and indeed beyond as Walton prison, and it is situated to the North of the City Centre. The prison has the capacity to hold up to 870 males. HMP Altcourse is a Category B local prison, receiving sentenced and remand adult male prisoners as well as young offenders, from the Cheshire and Merseyside courts. The prison can accommodate up to 1,164 males and all are housed across seven house blocks.
- Almost 60% of the prison population are held in HMP Altcourse, whilst just over 40% of the prison population are held in HMP Liverpool.
- Most of the prison population are White British Nationals and are aged between 30 – 39.
- Most of the prison population have been sentenced, with a significant proportion also on remand.
- Both prisons received a 'good performance' rating on the annual prison performance rating.

Extent:

Merseyside Police, Emergency Departments, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the North West Ambulance Service all recorded a reduction in incidents linked to serious violence from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

2021/22   **2022/23**

2021/22		2022/23
MerPol 46,953	3.0% ▼	MerPol 45,543
ED 4135	10.9% ▼	ED 3683
MFRS 3690	0.8% ▼	MFRS 3660
NWAS 920	14.7% ▼	NWAS 785
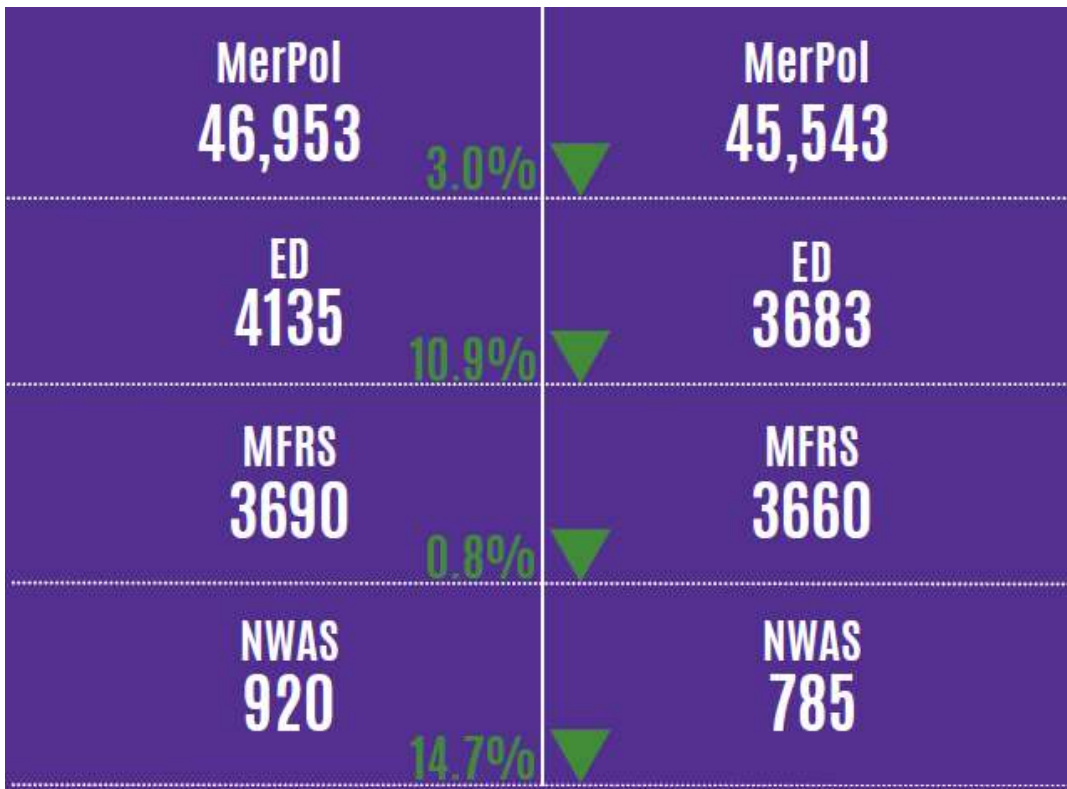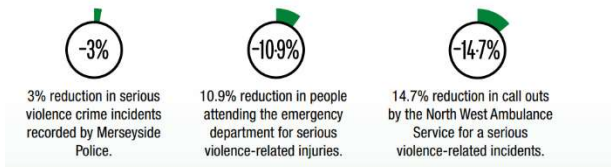
Include the stats like this? With the addition of FRS data.

- Merseyside Police data reveals that the highest number of serious violence offences fall into the category of Violence Against the Person (87%), followed by Violence Without Injury (58%). 0.05% of incidents are recorded as homicides, 0.5% are linked to firearms, and 3.6% are linked to knives/bladed articles.
- Stop & Search data reveals that the main residential for those stopped and searched was Liverpool (48%). The main Act cited was Misuse of Drugs Act (79%) and the main object found was controlled drugs (71%).

Nature:

- Police: Merseyside Police data reveals that the Local Authority with the most recorded Serious Violence incidents is Liverpool (39%). Serious violence incidents were fairly consistent throughout 2022/23, with a slight peak in May (11%).
- Ambulance: The highest percentage (40%) of North West Ambulance Service and Emergency Department patients reside in Liverpool.
- Fire: Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service saw 3,660 deliberate fires in 2022/23. The peak months include August (16%), April (13%) and July (13%). Liverpool sees the most deliberate fires (37%), followed by Wirral (22%). 1.4% linked to OCG activity and 0.3% domestic abuse.
- The SNA highlights specific 'high crime high harm' areas within Merseyside, the majority of which are in Liverpool, followed by Wirral, Sefton, and St Helens. Knowsley does not have a 'high crime high harm' area. 38% of homicides occurred in Liverpool, with peaks in October and August.
- Prisons: Drug offences and violence against the person are the most common recorded offence across both prisons. (HMP Altcourse, 268 drug offences and 315 violence against the person) (HMP Liverpool 210 drug offences and 200 violence against the person)

Include the below on its own page

High Crime High Harm Hotspots

Using the Cambridge Crime Harm Index, Merseyside Police identified 12 High Crime High Harm (HCHH) areas across the region. These HCHH areas make up just 0.5% of the force area but are responsible for 23% of serious violence crime and its associated harm.

Patrols are deployed to these identified HCHH areas to carry out normal police duties as well as a targeted response to serious violence. Results show that there has been a 54% reduction in serious violence within these areas, compared to a 31% reduction forcewide (when compared to the same period in 2021). This response has seen a positive impact on other crime types too, for example, Burglary Residential has decreased by 25% forcewide but has decreased by 49% in the HCHH areas. This supports the importance of implementing place-based approaches, by targeting resources to areas of high demand, need, and vulnerability.

Who is involved in serious violence in Merseyside?

- Where age is recorded, those involved in serious violence are most often aged between 20 – 35 years old.
- Across all BlueLight datasets, where gender is recorded, those involved in serious violence are mainly male.
- When looking at victim and perpetrator profiles using Merseyside Police data, victims of serious violence were mostly female, and suspects were mostly male.
- The North West Ambulance Service and Emergency Department report that the peak ages for those requiring medical assistance for serious violence incidents are from 15-19 years to 35-39 years. The peak age for ED attendances specifically is 20-24 years, compared with 30-34 years for NWAS. 60% of ED attendees for serious violence incidents were male. Of the people attending a Merseyside based ED with an assault injury, the relationship between victim and suspect was unknown. Of cases where it was known, the majority said the suspect was a stranger, 4.5% said their attacker was an acquaintance or friend.

What have our local communities told us about serious violence?

Community consensus lies at the heart of the local partnership approach to preventing and reducing serious violence. To embed a truly place-based, multi-agency, public health approach to serious violence prevention, we recognise the importance of working with and for our local communities, empowering them to actively participate in matters that affect them and that they care about.

In adopting a strengths-based approach, we want to support our communities to co-design solutions, ensuring their voices are at the heart of decision-making processes at a local and central Government level. In developing this strategy, we have delivered a series of consultations over the past 12-months to understand how violence affects our communities, to establish what we can do as a partnership to improve feelings of safety amongst our communities and minimise the fear of violence.

What does this mean for Merseyside?

What did we do?

Whilst we engaged **universally** with our communities' pan-Merseyside, we recognise the importance of engaging with members of our community who may be in receipt of the services and support that the agencies and bodies involved in this partnership provide, and who also may be particularly vulnerable.

Adopting a two-tiered approach, we delivered **targeted** consultation at 'place' and 'organisational' level. This enabled us to develop our understanding of the nature and causes of violence in different populations, whilst broadening our understanding of the localised nuances within and between local authorities. These insights have enabled us to develop meaningful and achievable actions which will be taken forward by the partnership over the short, medium, and longer-term, to ensure responsivity to local need.

Universal

Who did we speak to?

We engaged over 750 people from across Merseyside.

What did they tell us?

750+ RESPONSES

PERCEPTIONS

HOW DO YOU THINK VIOLENT CRIME HAS CHANGED IN YOUR AREA IN THE PAST YEAR?
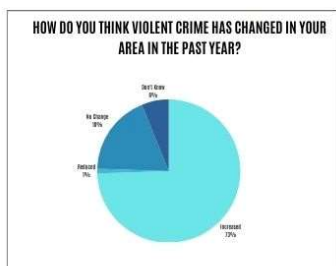
WHAT DOES OUR DATA TELL US?

Merseyside Police, Emergency Departments, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, and the North West Ambulance Service all recorded a reduction in incidents linked to serious violence from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

- 3% reduction in the number of serious violence incidents recorded by Merseyside Police.
- 10.9% reduction in the number of attendances at Emergency Departments for serious violence related incidents.
- 0.8% reduction in deliberate fires attended by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services.
- 14.7% reduction in ambulance call outs by the North West Ambulance Service for serious violence related incidents.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS DO YOU THINK ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE A VICTIM OR PERPETRATOR OF VIOLENCE?
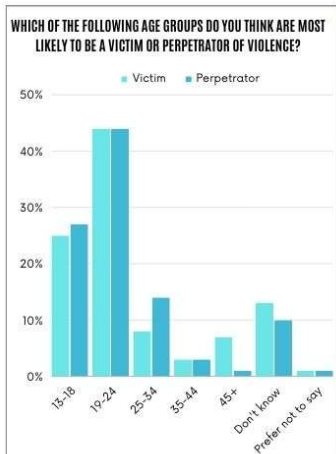
WHAT DOES OUR DATA TELL US?

Individuals involved in serious violence as victim or perpetrator are most often aged between 20 - 35 years.

- The North West Ambulance Service and Emergency Department report that the peak ages for those requiring medical assistance for serious violence incidents are from 15-19 years to 35-39 years.
- The peak age for Emergency Department attendances specifically is 20-24 years, compared with 30-34 years for North West Ambulance Service.
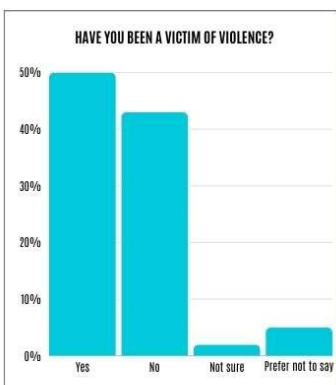
HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE?

If you've been affected by crime, you can contact Victim Care Merseyside for free, confidential, non-judgemental advice and support.

HTTPS://WWW.VICTIMCAREMERSEYSIDE.ORG/

HAVE YOU WITNESSED VIOLENCE IN PERSON?

Merseyside residents witnessed violence mostly in the day time other than in the city or town centre, where violence was witnessed more frequently at night.
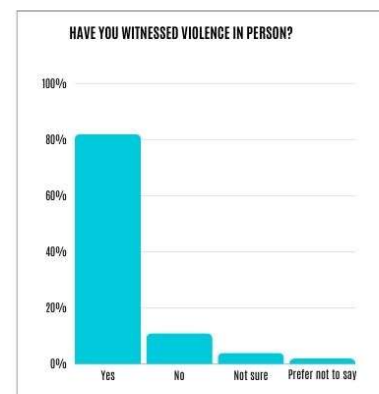
HOW SAFE OR UNSAFE DO YOU FEEL FROM VIOLENCE IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS?
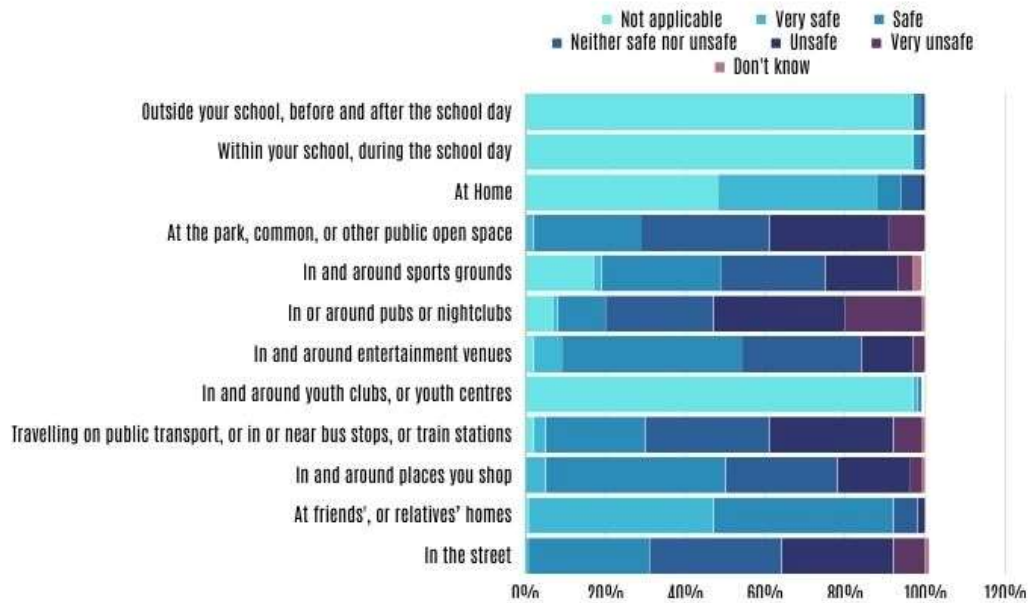
Merseyside residents told us that they feel least safe in or around pubs or nightclubs, at the park, common, or other open public spaces, and when travelling on public transport, in or near bus stops, or train stations.

IMPACT

IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU CHANGED ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE TO AVOID, OR PROTECT YOURSELF FROM, VIOLENCE?

HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE CHANGES LISTED WOULD AFFECT VIOLENCE IN YOUR AREA?
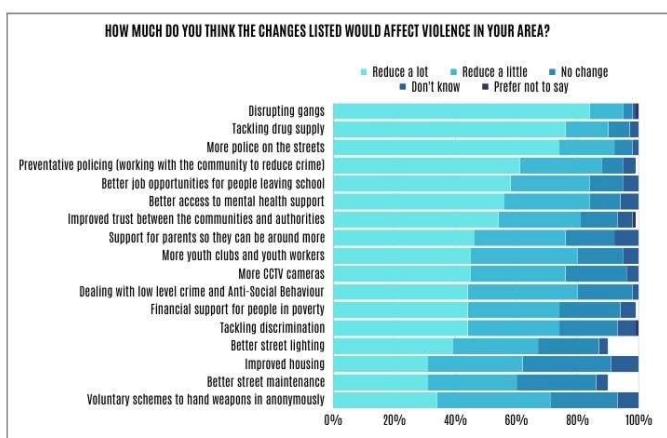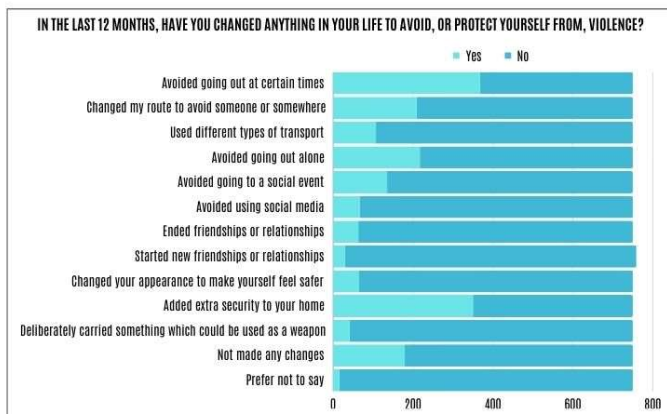
Merseyside respondents prioritised policing initiatives overall as solutions which they felt would make the biggest reduction in violent crime where they live. In order of priority, solutions included:

- Disrupting gangs.
- Tackling drug supply.
- More visible policing.
- Preventative policing.

However, improving job opportunities for people leaving school, better access to mental health support, and improved trust between communities and authorities were also considered effective ways to reduce violent crime.

Targeted

Who did we speak to?

Community Safety Partnerships, Prisons, and the Probation Service, in collaboration with statutory and third-sector partners, delivered a series of targeted consultations with:

- Young people who have experience of the care system
- Families of children with additional needs
- Victims of violence
- Young people receiving support from the youth justice system
- Young people in alternative education settings
- Ethnic minority communities
- LGBTQ+ communities
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- People in prison
- People on probation

The below provides a snapshot of the views, needs, and experiences of the communities that we spoke to. Local authority specific reports are contained within the appendix to this strategy and provide a more in-depth assessment of the nuances within and between each locality.

Experience
- There was a general acceptance amongst community groups that violence is inevitable, as well as a view that violence and gang involvement has become normalised.
- Difficulty establishing healthy relationships can increase vulnerability to violence and exploitation, particularly for people with experience of the care system who can find it difficult to establish healthy boundaries.
- Young people open to the youth justice system reported experiencing stigmatisation as a result of their involvement in offending behaviour.
- People from Ethnic Minority Groups felt that it was true that people from certain ethnic minority groups are perceived as more likely to commit violence and are treated different as a victim of violence.
- Young Adults in Prison felt that living in deprived areas with established gangs increases susceptibility to involvement in serious violence as criminal behaviour becomes normalised.
- Families of children with additional needs spoke of isolation and loneliness.
- Filming of attacks by peers increases propensity for a more violent attack.

Drivers of serious violence
- Poverty and deprivation, alcohol use, drug use and supply, unmet mental health needs, lack of access to employment, education, and training opportunities, protection, gang membership, money, retaliation, and the impact of social media were all major driving factors for serious violence.
- Communities recognised the danger of being involved in a gang and the relationship between gang membership, drugs, and serious violence.

- In prison violence is mainly linked to gang related community violence. However, various risk factors can increase vulnerability to gang exploitation in prison, including substance misuse problems, poor mental health, and low self-esteem.
- Neurodiversity was a common factor identified as contributing to increased susceptibility to involvement in serious violence as victim or perpetrator.

Services:
- There is a lack of understanding and awareness of neurodiversity and how this impacts behaviour and interactions between authorities and community members, including a lack of understanding on the relationship between neurodiversity and child on parent violence.
- Systems, processes, and services in place to support families with children with additional needs are fragmented, with inconsistent communication to raise awareness of referral pathways and access to available support.
- There is a pressing need to improve relationships with statutory services, particularly the police, to build trust and confidence amongst communities.
- Communities expressed difficult in accessing services and there was a consensus that services offered are not always responsive to local need.
- Victims and their families were not always satisfied with criminal justice outcomes, often feeling that outcomes are too lenient. They also called for better understanding and awareness on enforcement and criminal justice tactics.

Solutions:
- Localised and accessible support.
- Interventions which address risk and protective factors (including poverty, drug misuse, gang involvement, mental health needs) and are tailored to local need.
- Policies, processes, and interventions to address the impact of implementation on inequalities and disproportionality.
- Increased police visibility.
- Improved access to free education, employment, and training opportunities.
- Interventions which integrate young people from out of area to break down barriers in a risk managed environment.
- Consistent and coordinated support and communication to increase visibility of partnership assets which communities can access.
- Multi-agency support to enable early intervention and prevention, including coordinated referral pathways.
- Improved offer of whole family support.
- A co-ordinated, quality assured toolkit for use within educational and community centres around violence prevent education.

Strategic Priorities and Objectives

Taking account of the SNA and consultation with communities and partners, the local partnership has agreed the following strategic priorities, actions, objectives, and actions, which we will take forward through this strategy over the next 12 months to prevent and reduce serious violence:

Priority 1: People

As a partnership, we want to ensure that individuals, families, and communities, are supported to be free from violence and the fear of violence.

Objectives

Work together to identify individuals, families, and communities at risk of, or affected by, serious violence, and intervene to reduce risk and harm, ensuring responsivity to identified need and a focus on addressing the root causes of serious violence. This involves bringing about long-term cultural, behavioural, and attitudinal change through challenging the acceptance of norms which promote violence as being inevitable.

Taking a multi-agency approach, partners will target resources on prevention and early intervention, rooted in evidence on 'what works' to prevent and reduce serious violence. Using evidence-based resources, the partnership will commission and embed interventions across the region which are known to deliver the highest impact for people at risk of, impacted by, or already involved in, serious violence.

Partners will provide timely, coordinated support, and monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of interventions so that risk is reduced. Monitoring and evaluating is key to a public health approach to reducing violence, as it feeds back into our understanding of what works to reduce violence most effectively (WHO, 2017a). Not only does this reduce harm to communities by ensuring maximum impact, as well as uncovering what does not work, it also enables partners to prioritise resources more effectively in the long-term.

Ensure that the experiences, strengths, and needs of individuals, families, and communities are understood and that these views are clearly recorded so that co-production is central to the multi-agency approach. This will lead to greater alignment between organisations and communities and empower citizens to contribute towards a society free from violence and free from the fear of violence.

Priority 2: Places

As a partnership, we want to work collaboratively with key stakeholders, including our communities, to establish Merseyside as a place where people feel safe to live, work, and visit.

Objectives

Use information effectively to understand the prevalence of serious violence in their area to inform multi-agency strategy, planning, and actions, including targeting of resources in places and spaces to meet local need. This will ensure resource, intervention, and harm recovery efforts are targeted at priority hotspots where serious violence occurs.

Embed a strengths-based approach which focuses on identifying the strengths or assets, as well as the needs, of communities, to prevent and reduce serious violence. Adopting a strengths-based asset approach values the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections, and potential in a community, enabling the partnership to build upon and strengthen protective factors in a community to more effectively reduce violence at a population level.

Partners will collaborate to ensure consistent delivery of key messages relating to serious violence, empowering communities to build their resilience and confidence to prevent and respond to serious violence. The partnership is continuously striving to inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower key stakeholders and communities, using data in communications to support open and honest conversations about the extent of serious violence in Merseyside.

Partners will take ownership of embedding strategic and operational delivery at hyper-local level, ensuring action plans are dynamic and adapt to changing risk and need. This will enable partners to truly embed whole-systems, place-based multi-agency approaches which seek to improve long-term outcomes of the 'whole place' and not just individuals, whilst recognising that the impact of serious violence may be different in each local authority.

Priority 3: Partnerships

As a partnership, we want the prevention and reduction of serious violence related risk and harm to be everyone's responsibility, creating the right conditions for partners and communities to collaborate to take effective, co-ordinated action.

Objectives

Partners embed whole-systems, public health approaches to preventing serious violence at hyper-local level, with effective oversight and governance mechanisms to deliver improved outcomes. Ensuring the principles of a public health approach are the golden thread through strategic, operational, and tactical delivery, facilitating an understanding of the interoperability within and between organisational and geographical boundaries to integrate preventative action which tackles the root causes of serious violence.

Increase the effectiveness of partnerships at preventing/tackling serious violence, creating a system which fosters shared ownership, accountability, and mutually beneficial collaboration. Partners collaborate to ensure efficient allocation of resources to maximise impact and reduce silo working and duplication, including coordination of funding decisions and agreement to invest and pool resources for the long-term.

Engage in critical reflection to challenge and support practice to act upon system learning more habitually, promoting continuous improvement in the multi-agency approach for communities at risk of, or affected by, serious violence. Increasing public trust and confidence in the multi-agency approach to preventing and reduce serious violence related risk and harm.

Improve multi-agency data sharing and governance to enhance capacity and capability of the partnership in preventing and reducing serious violence related risk and harm. Supporting collaborative efforts across the partnership to enhance data capability and embrace evidence driven approaches to implementing public health interventions which address the root causes of serious violence. Using this understanding, partners will be better equipped to ensure responsivity to local need through the targeting of interventions and resources.

Commit to ensuring trauma informed practice is embedded across the partnership at all levels. Ensuring partners have access to training and support so that they are confident, knowledgeable, and understand the impact of serious violence on health and wellbeing.

Action to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence

The results of the SNA and consultation with partners and communities has been used by the local partnership to formulate and prioritise bespoke actions to prevent and reduce serious violence, that the partnership will take forward through this strategy. Actions are aligned to thematic priorities (people, places, and partnerships) and are set out under several key workstreams, including:

- Governance and collaboration.
- Data sharing.
- Evidence based and system learning.
- Targeted interventions and local implementation.
- Access to education, employment, and training.
- Training and awareness.
- Accommodation.
- Enforcement.
- Communications.

The below strategic actions are pan-Merseyside actions and have been arrived at through consultation, planning, and a review of local action plans to identify how we can use the Duty as an opportunity to bring about cultural change, encouraging partners to think and act more innovatively when collaborating to prevent and reduce serious violence. However, we remain committed to ensuring that we implement processes, systems, and interventions as locally as possible, whilst also understanding that some of the partners subject to this strategy may be better equipped to lead on driving change across the whole system. Please therefore see the appendix for localised delivery plans which have been developed by Specified and Relevant Authorities, highlighting detailed actions at strategic, operational, and tactical level. The actions contained within this strategy and within the localised delivery plans are closely aligned to thematic priorities and will be governed and overseen through

the local partnership arrangements set up under the Duty. This will enable us to remain firm in our commitment to embed change across a whole system by delivering improved outcomes for a whole 'place', whilst enabling us to embed a public health approach which takes account of the localised nuances within and between local authorities.

PEOPLE

PRIORITY: PEOPLE	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	**Work together to identify individuals, families, and communities at risk of, or affected by, serious violence, and intervene to reduce risk and harm.**
KPIs	**Short Term** • More people aware of and accessing support and intervention **Medium Term** • More people are identified who are at risk of or in need of support. • More people are aware of and protected against serious violence risks. • Reduced repeat involvement in serious violence, either as perpetrator or victim. • Fewer people exposed to/witnessing serious violence • Decrease in risk and increase in protective factors **Long Term** • Reduced financial cost of serious violence
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will proactively identify populations and places susceptible to serious violence and intervene early to ensure appropriate interventions (universal and targeted) are in place to reduce serious violence offending, reoffending, as well as to build desistance for people on probation. • We will continue to develop and improve the quality of support provided to victims and witnesses to mitigate the impact of serious violence and vulnerability. This will involve working across the partnership to identify those at risk of repeat victimisation, employing an early help approach to minimise risk and harm. • We will continue to develop and support the implementation of interventions which address underlying risk and protective factors, to ensure a holistic approach to preventing and reducing serious violence by targeting resources to areas of high demand, need, and vulnerability. This

includes developing interventions which address thinking, attitudes, and behaviours which lead to serious violence offending.

- We will work across the whole system, including working closely with partners making referrals, to strategically map risk and protective factors and early indicators which are shared across multiple population health concerns e.g., serious violence, radicalisation, poor health. This will enable us to develop 'one system' to identify risk factors and support joined up efforts to provide those most at risk with appropriate support.
- We will build consultation and feedback into partnership activities and timelines to ensure stakeholders and communities are engaged in:
  - o Initial consultation on co-production
  - o Development of the strategy, as well as annual consultation and feedback at the point of strategic review
  - o Intervention commissioning, including feedback to beneficiaries as well as communities/ organisations who do not fall within the commissioning plan
  - o Delivery plan, including consulting stakeholders to identify opportunities for joint working
  - o Commit to providing feedback to stakeholders and ensuring feedback loops are in place when planning all consultation with stakeholders
- We will co-produce with communities in some way across the whole of Merseyside, not just in hotspots, to ensure equality of voice.

PRIORITY: PEOPLE	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	**Taking a multi-agency approach, partners will target resources on prevention and early intervention, rooted in evidence on 'what works to prevent and reduce serious violence**.
KPIs	**Short Term** • Services offered reflect local and national best practice. **Medium Term** • Reduced risk of serious harm.

	• Decrease in risk and increase in protective factors. • Enhanced offer of whole family support • Improved health outcomes associated with wider determinants • Reduced health inequalities.
	Long Term • Long-term change in attitudes and behaviours which contribute to a culture where serious violence occurs • Reduced financial cost of violence
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• Using evidence-based resources, we will commission and embed interventions across the region which are known to deliver the highest impact for people at risk of, or already involved in, serious violence. This will involve working closely with the Violence Reduction Partnership to ensure decision making is informed by the wealth of local evidence on 'what works' at primary, secondary, and tertiary level. • We will continue to provide high quality interventions and targeted support for people under supervision, including people in prison and people on probation, who have unique needs, to improve outcomes across a range of areas, including accommodation, education, employment, and health, and address the thinking, attitudes, and behaviours that lead to reoffending. • We will ensure there is sufficient provision of evidence-based interventions and effective partnership arrangements in place to support the transition from custody to community, maximising opportunities to deliver the Short-Term Sentence Function (SSF). The SSF is an enhanced approach to sentence management and is primarily needs focussed with the intention of improving the continuity of provision from custody into the community. • We will continue to support and commission whole family approaches to preventing and reducing serious violence, including providing support for people in prison to initiate and maintain family ties whilst in custody. By whole family, we mean that we will triage family members for their individual needs, but interventions are concurrently delivered. Improving simultaneous access and availability of support for all family members in need, we can maximise and sustain the impact of interventions. • We will continue to deliver and develop educational programmes (universal and targeted) to engage and prevent serious violence, including working closely with the Merseyside Violence

	Reduction Partnership and Safer Schools Officers to develop a suite of trauma informed preventative interventions for use within educational settings.

PRIORITY: PEOPLE	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Partners will provide timely, coordinated support, and monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of interventions so that risk is reduced
KPIs	**Short Term** • More people aware of and accessing support and intervention. • Services offered reflect local and national best practice
	Medium Term • Improved referral and referral pathways for people who are at risk of or in need of support. • More people are aware of and protected against serious violence risks • Decrease in risk and increase in protective factors. • Coordinated referral and support for the most vulnerable. • Improved health outcomes associated with wider determinants.
	Long Term • People feel safer.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will establish a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of strategic and operational processes and interventions, supporting the partnership to measure impact in the absence of significant funding required for robust evaluation. This will include regular reviews of policies and procedures, review of performance data, and consultation with partners and communities to understand the impact. • We will continue to build the local evidence base on 'what works', collating and sharing best practice spotlights, to develop a repository of local evidence.

- We will conduct a mapping exercise to increase the partnerships' awareness of the occurrence and effectiveness of strategic and operational assets in place across the region to prevent and reduce serious violence, and use the output to inform our collaboration and planning going forward, ensuring resources are targeted effectively to reduce risk and harm felt by communities as a result of violent offending in public spaces.
- We will establish clear referral pathways and ensure that statutory and third sector partners are equipped with knowledge of the referral processes, making it easier for partners to connect people most in need to other services and resources which address public health needs and risk and protective factors for serious violence (e.g., mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, housing services, and employment and education opportunities).
- We will work across the whole system to raise community awareness of the support available to those involved in, or impacted by, serious violence. This will include raising awareness of wider interventions as well as criminal justice and enforcement activity (such as Out of Court Disposal processes) to provide victim reassurance.
- We will work across the whole system to monitor and evaluate levels of engagement and attainment in disproportionately represented groups open to services, including those open to the Youth Justice System, to develop improvement, including for children with an Educational Health Care Plan, children with SEN, children permanently excluded from school, out of court disposal cases, and children released under investigation.
- We will work closely with partners to understand the impact of school exclusion policies on serious violence, including monitoring the extent of school exclusion in the youth justice system cohort, as well as the extent of additional support provided to children with Special Educational Needs, ensuring that every child with an Educational Health Care Plan has this reviewed on an annual basis.

PRIORITY: PEOPLE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Ensure that the experiences, strengths, and needs of individuals, families, and communities are understood and that these views are clearly recorded so that co-production is central to the multi-agency approach.

KPIs	**Short Term** • Community engagement and co-production is a priority. • Community voice embedded in strategy to inform action planning at a local level. **Medium Term** • More people demonstrating positive engagement with services referred to. • Individuals, organisations, and communities work together to prevent serious violence. • Individuals, families, and communities are supported to feel safe. • Communities challenging acceptance of violence. • Reduced fear of violence within the community. **Long Term** • Long-term change in attitudes and behaviours which contribute to a culture where serious violence occurs. • Co-production is habitual. • People feel safer • Increased reporting of serious violence.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will conduct a strengths-based asset mapping assessment and use the output of this to inform planning and collaboration to prevent and reduce serious violence, focussing on what is important to local communities and how system partners can help to build and expand the assets and resources within communities, including those which are led by communities for communities. • We will work across the whole system to drive a cultural shift around co-production to embed it within organisational and partnership ways of working as 'business as usual', ensuring that the views and needs of those most impacted by serious violence feed into strategic and operational planning, delivery, decision making, and review. • We will develop a consistent system of collaboration between workstreams, to keep operational approaches the same and ensure strategic join-up around who is engaged, how they are engaged, and priorities for engagement. • We will amplify the voices of those most impacted by serious violence, ensuring meaningful opportunities for communities to actively participate in matters that affect them and that they care about, particularly those who may not always be listened to. • We will utilise and build upon the success and impact of existing lived experience forums such as Liverpool City Council's Serious Violence Forum and the Service User Forum which is part of the

	strategic governance across the Probation Service, to develop and embed a permanent lived experience forum as part of the governance structure under the Duty to ensure that experts by experience can positively influence decision making at the highest level.

PLACES

PRIORITY: PLACES	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Use information effectively to understand the prevalence of serious violence in their area to inform multi-agency strategy, planning, and actions, including targeting of resources in places and spaces to meet local need.
KPIs	**Short Term** • Improved identification of hotspot locations and trends to better target resource and intervention. • Ensure a coordinated, adaptable approach to the targeting of organised crime groups by the partnership.
	Medium Term • Risk of serious violence in hotspots is reduced. • Resource, intervention, and harm recovery efforts targeted at priority hotspots where serious violence occurs
	Long Term • Mature model of early identification embedded to respond to emerging need and risk to prevent and reduce serious violence.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will review practical interventions, working closely with Designing Out Crime Units, to ensure regeneration plans effectively work to prevent serious violence and the opportunities for crime within the built environment. • We will continue to implement place-based approaches, using multiple data sets to identify the High Harm / High Crime hotspot locations across Merseyside where serious violence occurs and

ensure these areas are subject to intensive support, including enhanced police visibility / patrolling, targeting of interventions to provide support and advice to those most in need, and continued efforts to problem solve with key partners to reduce risk and harm.

- We will continue to build upon data capability and digital resources to develop integrative systems which identify any areas of Merseyside at risk of becoming a hotspot for Serious Violence, overlaying crime and environmental data, to intervene early and mitigate emerging risk. We will develop innovation in the way that this is visualised to support partners in embedding effective policies, processes, and interventions across the whole system.
- We will continue to establish and build on learning from the roll out of the multi-agency partnership tactic called Clear, Hold, Build, which has been designed and part-funded by the Home Office to rescue and regenerate areas most affected by serious and organised crime.
- We will work with Merseyside Police and Local Authority licensing teams to ensure there are suitable systems in place to deal with repeat issues of serious violence at locations.

PRIORITY: PLACES	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Embed a strengths-based approach which focuses on identifying the strengths or assets, as well as the needs, of communities, to prevent and reduce serious violence.
KPIs	**Short Term** • Improved understanding, recognition, and use of community assets.
	Medium Term • Improved visibility and awareness of partnership assets to prevent and reduce serious violence, including awareness of operational programmes and initiatives.
	Long Term • Strengths-based approaches embedded and contribute to driving change and system level transformation at a local level.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will conduct a strengths-based asset mapping assessment which identifies, describes, and visualises strategic, operational, and community assets that are available within the Merseyside region to support the partnership and communities in preventing and reducing serious violence. This will be used as an empowerment tool to build upon existing capacity, empowering meaningful co-production with communities to understand and respond to their concerns and ideas. • In line with building upon tangible and intangible assets within the community, we will ensure that serious violence prevention and reduction remains a priority for Community Cashback and participatory budget schemes, providing communities with the skills, tools, and resources to deliver their own serious violence work, sustainably amplifying the wider system coming together.

PRIORITY: PLACES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Partners will collaborate to ensure consistent delivery of key messages relating to serious violence, empowering communities to build their resilience and confidence to prevent and respond to serious violence
KPIs	**Short Term** • Shared understanding of current opportunities to build and develop communications capacity. • Consistent and aligned communications plans across the partnership to deliver key messages, improving perceptions of safety.
	Medium Term • Increased local community awareness of serious violence and risk mitigation. • Coordinated and consistent messaging which builds awareness of the local approach to serious violence prevention. • Increase the partnerships' awareness of the occurrence and effectiveness of prevention and intervention activities implemented across the region to tackle serious violence. • Increased community cohesion through communities working together to address serious violence related concerns.
	Long Term

		• Communities are equipped with the tools to build confidence and resilience in preventing and responding to serious violence.
	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will map and review current communications approaches, identifying examples of best practice and opportunities to engage communities with the serious violence agenda using an aspirational, strengths-based approach. • We will develop innovative ways to communicate the important role of public health approaches to serious violence prevention and to evaluate their effectiveness to provide future whole systems approaches that will support efforts across Merseyside. • We will raise awareness on the impact of serious violence on individuals and develop a strengths-based approaches which challenge the acceptance of norms which promote violence as being inevitable, highlighting the tangible and intangible partnership and community assets which can support in bringing about long-term cultural, behavioural, and attitudinal change. • We will develop coordinated and consistent messaging, which is targeted and outcomes focussed, to build awareness of the local approach to serious violence prevention, instilling trust and confidence in the work being done by the partnership to tackle and prevent serious violence. • We will share positive news with communities to further strengthen community resilience and provide transparency around activity undertaken to impact on serious violence. • We will ensure that messaging is tailored to local need and shared at hyper-local level through various channels, informed by data and community insight to understand how to consult communities where fear of violence may be a bigger problem than the actual threat of violence. • We will act as champions within our own organisations to deliver key messages relating to serious violence to embed a public health approach to serious violence prevention. • We will create a communication and campaign strategy with long-term and intermediate objectives to guide how the partnership will inform the community, co-produced with communities. • We will develop our understanding of how visible the partnership is to key population groups. • We will support the community to develop new skills to ensure that work on prevention and reduction is sustainable and allow the community to deliver interventions and their own serious violence work, ensuring existing work done by community members and groups is amplified, well-resourced, and valued.

	- We will champion the positive contribution made by communities to counteract the risk and harm felt as a result of violent offending in public spaces, and support community asset approaches which build community cohesion. - We will enhance our connectivity to communities, considering all partnership activity in terms of its inclusivity and accessibility, identifying and removing barriers to participation and ensuring that we build opportunities for engagement so that hat partnership engagement is held at times and places where individuals and groups can attend and participate.

PRIORITY: PLACES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Partners will take ownership of embedding strategic and operational delivery at hyper-local level, ensuring action plans are dynamic and adapt to changing risk and need.
KPIs	**Short Term** - Hyper-local strategy and action plans developed tailored to local need, with robust accountability and governance structures at hyper-local level to drive key actions. **Medium Term** - Localised strategies and approaches implemented. - Ensuring that local delivery to reduce serious violence is underpinned by mature co-production with communities, particularly those who are most adversely affected by violence. **Long Term** - Strategy and delivery embedded at hyper-local level in response to local need.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	- We will continue to ensure that the priorities and actions contained within this strategy align with the wider strategic and political context, and form part of an ongoing process of review and co-production with key stakeholders, including local communities, to support local ownership of the strategy and ensure that it is implemented as intended.

	• To monitor the impact of multi-agency public health approach to serious violence prevention, we will continue to use community insight data where possible to better understand impact, community confidence, and levels of reassurance, enabling us to adapt to changing risk and need. • We will ensure this strategy is owned at place, meaning that we will drive the actions contained within this strategy through local place-based strategic, tactical, and operational partnerships, to ensure that decision making is kept as local as possible and that we are able to respond to localised nuances within and between local authorities which may see the impact of serious violence differ.

PARTNERSHIPS

PRIORITY: PARTNERSHIPS	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Partners embed whole-systems, public health approaches to preventing serious violence at hyper-local level, with effective oversight and governance mechanisms to deliver improved outcomes.
KPIs	**Short Term** • Alignment across local and national strategies and delivery plans to ensure a symbiotic approach.
	Medium Term • Partners demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the public health approach and translate this into practice, recognising the link between serious violence and wider determinants of health and embed serious violence outcomes into planning and delivery. • Partners are confident and equipped to implement proactive, preventative approaches to serious violence, as opposed to implementing solely reactive approaches.
	Long Term • Partners work together to enable cultural change and achieve a sustainable approach to tackling serious violence.

	• Effectiveness of oversight and governance of serious violence prevention work locally, including an understanding of the senior leadership structure, funding landscape, and interoperability between partners at all levels to support a whole system, public health approach to serious violence prevention.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will develop our understanding of existing governance arrangements for strategic and operational serious violence prevention work, identifying interoperability with cross cutting local and national strategies, delivery plans, operating systems, and existing partnerships. • We streamline governance mechanisms and establish clear lines of reporting and accountability to deliver improved outcomes through a multi-agency, public health approach, ensuring the right people have a seat at the table to drive long-term, sustainable change to processes, systems, and interventions, and reflect this in revised partnership terms of reference where appropriate. • We will review how the partnership supports the workforce to embed multi-agency, public health approaches, and develop a programme of training for the whole system so that partners have the right skills, knowledge, and working conditions to embed a public health approach to serious violence prevention, enabling improved and earlier identification of populations and places vulnerable to the impact of serious violence. • We will work collaboratively with partners to develop and deliver training and awareness raising of what is available in the community to prevent serious violence offending and reoffending, including what assets are available to support with resettlement for prison leavers and people on probation.

PRIORITY: PARTNERSHIPS	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	**Increase the effectiveness of partnerships at preventing/tackling serious violence, creating a system which fosters shared ownership, accountability, and mutually beneficial collaboration**
KPIs	**Short Term** • Specified and relevant authorities feel included and understand their role, and the role of key stakeholders, in supporting those at risk of involvement in serious violence. • Partners demonstrate shared ownership, accountability, and collective responsibility in preventing serious violence.

	• Partners are aware of the funding landscape and assets across partnerships to deliver against serious violence strategic priorities, ensuring alignment of relevant funding streams.
	Medium Term • Partners are demonstrating maturity in co-production, engaging key stakeholders and communities in the Serious Violence Duty programme, including co-design and delivery of strategy and intervention. • Partners more effectively coordinate funding decisions and investments.
	Long Term • Improved joint working, decision-making, and commissioning. • Resources are targeted effectively, maximising impact, and reducing duplication. • Improved co-commissioning arrangements, including longer-term pooling of resources and agreement to invest for the long-term.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will deliver against a shared vision, and collaborate to ensure that partners understand their role, and the role of others, in violence prevention, including a common understanding of what the local multi-agency approach is currently and what each organisation's role within the collaboration is or can be. • We will continue to work collaboratively with partners to target delivery of services, maximising co-commissioning opportunities, to achieve the priorities set out in the Duty Strategy and deliver shared outcomes. A key focus in the first phase of strategy mobilisation is to explore co-commissioning opportunities between partners to reinstate the local evidence-based practice of the Departure Lounge in HMP Liverpool. • We will strive to develop serious violence and public health outcomes focussed funding models, prioritising making greater resources available for prevention, and reflecting this within grants and commissioning contracts to move beyond payment for activity to investment in longer-term population outcomes • We will develop our understanding of the funding landscape to identify funding streams available across the partnership which can be used to resource serious violence prevention activity, highlighting where we can pool budgets, and where funding streams enable longer-term funding which is not restricted to financial year funding cycles.

	• We will develop a coordinated, regional approach to serious violence across Prisons and Probation, aligning partnership work across the Duty strategy and Regional Reducing Reoffending Plans. This is an area of specific focus as we understand there are a number of people held in prison locally who are from out of area, thus requiring us to further join up efforts at regional level.

PRIORITY: PARTNERSHIPS	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	**Engage in critical reflection to challenge and support practice to act upon system learning more habitually, promoting continuous improvement in the multi-agency approach for communities at risk of, or affected by, serious violence.**
KPIs	**Short Term** • Partners have a shared vision and are committed to actively engaging and sharing learning across the partnership. **Medium Term** • Improved capacity for partners to share and act upon data and system learning more habitually. **Long Term** • Partners work together to enable cultural change and achieve a sustainable approach to tackling serious violence.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will conduct an asset mapping assessment of strategic and operational serious violence prevention work to enable the partnership to facilitate a deeper understanding of the existing multi-agency response to serious violence at whole-system and intervention level, identifying gaps and opportunities to deliver improved outcomes. The output will be part of a broader iterative process of continual system learning which will be driven by the Tactical Oversight Group. • We will collaborate to share learning and examples of good practice that other partners can adopt, which we will collate and present in the form of an iterative toolkit which will be regularly updated and published on the Police and Crime Commissioners website, supporting the partnership in sharing advice, expertise, and intervention awareness to address local serious violence issues.

	• We will continue to work closely with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to develop system learning and sustainably embed a public health approach at whole-systems and intervention level, building on the evidence legacy from the work undertaken to date to inform and sustain ongoing violence prevention policy and activity. • We will build a shared understanding on current opportunities to evaluate and quality assure the impact of interventions, using our collective resources and expertise to support organisations to develop more robust evaluation of projects through applications to the Youth Endowment Fund and other local evaluation partner opportunities, and provide organisations with income generation support to sustainably resource initiatives. • We will work across the partnership to prepare for national HMICFRS inspections relating to serious violence, and review and act upon any recommendations and areas for improvement. • We will establish a multi-agency response structure and framework to support the whole system in preventing and responding to serious violence and emerging risk, empowering communities to sustain serious violence preventative activity.

PRIORITY: PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	**Improve multi-agency data sharing and governance to enhance capacity and capability of the partnership in preventing and reducing serious violence related risk and harm.**
	Short Term • Partners have an increase understanding of the nature, extent, and impact of serious violence and related risk factors, using shared data and intelligence to identify support pathways and target resources. • Serious Violence analysts meet regularly.
	Medium Term • Improved individual data capacity and capability to support partnership understanding of population and pathway needs.

	• Partners have a better understanding of population need and risks, population receives more appropriate referral and support. •
	Long Term • Resources are targeted effectively, maximising impact, and reducing duplication. • Improved multi-agency data sharing with improved system-wide governance.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will establish a Serious Violence Analyst network, comprising of analysts from across Specified and Relevant Authorities, to enable us to support individual data capacity and capability and provide a 'one picture' of the truth. • We will establish a Data Protection / Information Governance Network among data leads in partner agencies to improve data sharing, providing reassurance on legislation and compliance around what can be shared, unblocking barriers, developing information and data sharing agreements to enable effective sharing of data. • We will continue to work across the partnership to improve the quantity and quality of data we collect, ensuring training is in place to support front line professionals in accurately recording serious violence offences and injuries within the definition set out in this strategy. • We will build our data capability across the partnership to improve joint working to identify populations and places most susceptible to serious violence, including identification of risk and protective factors operating at a local level, as well as to enable an effective flow of information and intelligence to support rehabilitation and resettlement planning for high-risk populations. • We will further develop our understanding of causal factors driving in-prison violence to inform resettlement and welfare services for prison leavers moving from custody to the community, and to mitigate the impact of in-prison violence on communities. • We will ensure processes and information sharing agreements are in place to facilitate the sharing of multi-agency data and information to inform the ongoing development of problem profiles and strategic needs assessments which we will use to inform resource allocation to maximise impact for communities. • In the long-term, we will work towards developing a system which enables us to track patients presenting to Emergency Departments, to develop an understanding of emerging and repeat risk

	and vulnerability, as well as to understand the impact of interventions on repeat victimisation and/or perpetration. • We will support the development of the Violence and Injuries Dashboard being developed by the Integrated Care Board, to develop our understanding of violent injuries and associated population health risk factors. We will ensure that this complements and supports the work of the Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group Data Hub.

PRIORITY: PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	**Commit to ensuring trauma informed practice is embedded across the partnership at all levels.**
KPIs	**Short Term** • All partners demonstrate trauma informed awareness **Medium Term** • All partners become trauma informed organisations, ensuring trauma informed practice is embedded across the partnership at all levels so that staff can identify early indicators of trauma and adversity and prevent retraumatising those who are most vulnerable. **Long Term** • Trauma informed practice is embedded across the partnership.
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	• We will work embed trauma informed training across the workforce to ensure partners at all levels are trauma informed and embed trauma informed practice. To support this, we will undertake a review to identify which partners have undertaken appropriate training and enrol staff where gaps are identified. • We will develop multi-agency relationships and partnership working to embed a trauma informed approach across all partners, increasing access to a range of expertise for communities presenting with the most complex needs, developing an asset-based approach to community development.

	• We will develop our understanding of neurodiversity in the criminal justice system, including understanding how neurodiversity may serve as a driving factor for vulnerability to serious violence, to establish how we can embed a cohesive offer across the partnership to minimise serious violence related risk and harm which is linked to neurodevelopmental needs.

Understanding Impact

The three key success measures for the prevention and reduction of serious violence, as mandated by the Home Office, are:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object.
- A reduction in knife and sharp object enabled serious violence recorded by the police; and
- Homicides recorded by the police.

Whilst the above measures provide valuable insight into the impact of policies, processes, and interventions on recorded offences and reported injuries, as you will see from the action plan above, we are keen to understand the wider impact that our partnership activity has on mitigating risk and harm caused by local serious violence issues.

In adhering to a public health framework, we are committed to embedding a long-term approach to the prevention and reduction of serious violence, and therefore whilst we acknowledge that there will be some impact in the short-term, we anticipate much of our impact to be over the medium to longer-term. However, we cannot underestimate the importance of reviewing short term measures to maximise longer-term outcomes. By understanding short term outputs, we are able to act quicker to positively impact longer-term change, using evidence on what works within our local context to adapt to changing risk and need.

Measuring Impact

Whilst measuring impact against three key success measures is important, we are committed to understanding the lived experiences which sit behind the data to develop a holistic understanding of the effectiveness and efficacy of our partnership approach.

Our data tells us that serious violence is on a downward trend, however, we know that the harm and impact felt by our communities as a result of violent offending in public spaces is increasing. As such, we will ensure that whilst impact is measured through quantitative offence and injury data, we will place a strong emphasis on obtaining qualitative feedback from key stakeholders and communities regarding what's working, where it's working, and for whom.

Where possible, we will seek to develop processes and systems to enable tracking over the longer-term, to identify where preventative action has realised positive outcomes for populations through reduced risk and harm, as well as reducing future economic burdens by investing to save. This will also enable us to develop a solid performance framework, which looks at implementation and impact indicators, to create a clear understanding of the key contextual factors working to create the intended impact, and how we can adapt to embed long-term financial and cultural sustainability to serious violence prevention work.

What have we done so far?

As a region, we are relentless in our commitment to preventing and tackling serious violence, to minimise the harm caused to individuals, families, and the wider community.

Prevention is at the core of our approach, and we are steadfast in embedding a public health approach to tackling serious violence, investing in processes and interventions which seek to **prevent serious violence from happening altogether**.

Working in a preventative way enables us to work together in partnership to understand and address risk and protective factors which make populations and places more susceptible to serious violence, and over the past few years we have collectively supported a cultural shift towards being proactive instead of reactive – "There comes a point where we need to stop jus pulling people out of the river. We need to upstream to find out why they are falling in".

To embed whole systems, change, this has required the commitment from partners at the most senior level, ensuring that prevention underpins and guides the partnership response to serious violence at a hyper-local level. It also requires strong co-production with communities to ensure that work on prevention and reduction is sustainable and responsive to local needs, concerns, and aspirations, supporting communities to deliver interventions and their own serious violence work which is well-resourced and valued.

Locally, we have seen some powerful examples of partners working together to prevent and reduce serious violence within a public health framework, as set out below, with examples of participatory approaches which actively involve community members in the design, delivery, and evaluation of serious violence prevention work. However, we recognise that this is only the start, and we are committed to continuing a positive trajectory to influence whole system change to support the implementation and embedding of a public health approach to violence prevention.

From investing in our staff to ensure that they have the right training, skills, and working environment to embed long-term public health approaches, to creating meaningful and impactful opportunities for co-production with communities, as well as developing a robust evidence base to inform preventative policy and activity, we will continue to empower partners and communities to have direct involvement in key decisions which impact them and which they care about.

There is no doubt that we can more effectively prevent and reduce serious violence by working together, pooling our collective knowledge and expertise to respond to local need, demand and vulnerability – bolstering community cohesion and increasing feelings of safety.

Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership

Merseyside is one of several areas allocated funding by the Home Office since 2019 to establish a multi-agency violence reduction unit. Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (MVRP) aims to take a whole system public health approach to prevention

that complements existing multi-agency partnerships and brings together partners to develop a coordinated approach to tackle the root causes of violence. The MVRP provides strategic leadership on the public health approach to violence in Merseyside through policy, practice, and targeted communication. MVRP also funds a suite of primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions to prevent violence with a focus on early intervention, life course, place-based, and community led approaches. MVRP works across five priority areas: early years, education, health, whole-family approaches and preventing offending.

Trauma Informed Training

Trauma is a global public health crisis according to the Centre for Disease Control and its prevention and should therefore be a priority for everyone. Being 'Trauma Informed' requires an understanding that different life experiences that shape the options available to us and our way of being and we can use this understanding to influence our interactions and decisions, both in work and in our daily life.

The Merseyside's Violence Reduction Partnership have developed (and evaluated) a multi-agency in-person training package to support Public Services in embedding Trauma Informed Practice. These trauma informed training sessions are being run across all 5 boroughs in Merseyside, with a focus on supporting public and third sector organisations to understand how psychological trauma can impact individuals. This in turn provides mechanisms as to how they can support individuals they come into contact with, whilst also ensuring that they consider the implications for their individual services.

Training takes place over 4 separate sessions and on consecutive weeks, with an emphasis on a multi-agency approach. Over these four sessions, practitioners gain an understanding of the neuroscience as to how individuals learn and develop, providing them with tools to best meet the needs of individuals and their communities. With a focus on the neuroscience of how we learn, the rationale is clear regarding the delivery of training over a number of sessions, practitioners learn then practice the techniques provided, thus embedding the Trauma Informed principles. Practitioners feel empowered to support their clients in the most appropriate manner and also to deliver change across their organisations.

'To promote a culture embedding the Trauma Informed Principles, we need to develop a multi-faceted response with the 6 Trauma Principles at the core. Organisations don't change behaviour, people do. We need to create a sense of Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability and Reinforcement'. (Hiatt et al 2006).

Merseyside Police Preventative Policing Strand.

In 2021, Merseyside Police invested in a new Prevention Strand which brings together a number of key teams including the Community Engagement Unit, a new Rural Wildlife and Heritage team, the Early Help team, and the Missing Persons Unit, as well as a Prevention Hub, to help officers and staff deliver prevention across Merseyside. This strand has instilled a whole force approach to prevention through shared responsibility and collaborative effort and bolstered two-way engagement with communities to encourage community involvement in local policing activity. Not only

has this strand helped to reduce harm and offending, it has also created the conditions for partners to work together identify people and places of highest demand, ensuring effective problem solving approaches and interventions are implemented to address risk and protective factors in populations and places.

Safer Schools Officers

Merseyside Police Safer Schools Team work with schools to keep young people safe. Every day Safer Schools Officers are interacting and engaging with the young people of Merseyside in non-police related environment. They provide safeguarding and pastoral support, as well as personal, social and health education. They help to tackle truancy and instances of bullying, creating, and maintaining positive relationships with the school and young people. Safer Schools Officers also assist in early identification and support for victims and vulnerable individuals, working with schools and partners to improve outcomes for all, intervening early to prevent unnecessary criminalisation.

Operation Interface

A co-ordination cell that enhances police activity across the force relating to 3 distinct areas of Policing; Project Medusa, which focuses on County Lines drug activity and associated vulnerabilities; Project Adder, working across partnerships, ensuring more people are signposted to drug treatment providers and Operation Target, providing a focus on preventing serious violence and knife crime, affecting young people.

Operation Blue

Enhanced approach to Test Purchase operations focusing on preventing the sale of knives / weapons to underage individuals.

Evolve – Clear, Hold, Build

Merseyside Police is rolling out a multi-agency partnership tactic called Clear, Hold, Build, which has been designed and part-funded by the Home Office to rescue and regenerate areas most affected by serious and organised crime.

The three-phase initiative, known locally as EVOLVE, uses a combination of targeted high-visibility police operations and covert policing tactics alongside activity from partners and input from residents to protect our communities and prevent organised crime groups from operating.

What?

The strategy sees police ruthlessly pursue gang members using all available powers and tactics to clear an area; continue activity to hold the location, so another gang can't take control in the vacuum; and then work with residents and partners to build the

community into a more prosperous area where people would love to live, work and visit and one less susceptible to being exploited by organised crime groups.

Where?

EVOLVE projects are taking place in areas of Wirral, Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton.

When?

This is a long-term project and work will be continuous.

Why?

Implementing this holistic approach will make it more difficult for organised crime groups to operate. It will disrupt their activity and their incomes, and will help to protect those living, visiting and working in Merseyside. It will also assist those vulnerable to manipulation by gangs. By working together and listening to residents' needs, EVOLVE will regenerate areas blighted by serious and organised crime and will allow residents to reclaim their communities, building long-term resilience against organised crime groups and help prevent future threats to safety.

How?

Partners will work closely to share information and identify hot spots that need regeneration as well as targeted activity to remove and disrupt organised crime groups. In addition, partners will provide advice and services, in particular to those in need of assistance who may struggle to access help. Areas that will be focussed on include: the living, working and recreational environment for residents, opportunities for young people, help with employment, assistance to access funding, health issues, crime prevention and security advice.

Events will also be held with community groups that will provide opportunities for input from residents to determine how partners can best help and support communities.

Who?

Partners involved in EVOLVE include Merseyside Police, Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner, local councils, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, housing associations, health services, schools, colleges, local businesses, community groups and residents.

SAFE Taskforce – Liverpool

SAFE stands for Support, Attend, Fulfil, Exceed. The SAFE Taskforce is a group of mainstream secondary schools working together with other multi-agency structures and local experts to support young people at risk of serious violence and re-engage them in their education. The interventions will help:

Support young people with challenging behaviour.

Attend school regularly.

Fulfil their potential.

Exceed their expectations.

The Department for Education has allocated £3.7 million of funding over a 3-year period for the Taskforce to invest in, and commission school focused interventions to reduce involvement in serious violence and improve attendance at school. It will also help with behaviour in school and within the community and improve social and emotional regulation and wellbeing.

Intervention 1 – SAFE Workers: The implementation of SAFE workers in 11 schools who will provide 1-1 mentoring and support to the referred young person, working both in and out of school with the pupil and their family for a period of around 6 months.

Intervention 2 – Data Sharing Hub: The building of a data-sharing hub that will bring together information from multiple agencies that work with families and young people across the city. The information will include schools, social services, family support and police.

Intervention 3 – ELSA: The implementation of Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) in schools and training school staff in trauma-informed practice.

Intervention 4 – Cognitive Behavioural Approaches through Sport: The intervention involves 13 schools and offers a 12-week engagement programme for selected pupils to explore 'Choice Theory' and cognitive behavioural approaches through Sports sessions delivered by Liverpool School Sports Partnership Foundation. These engagement sessions will then lead to an extra-curricular offer including signposting to community sport plus an expedition.

Intervention 5 – Girls Out Loud: A 4-session programme to girls exploring the following key areas: Social Media & Me, Friendship Fix, Mental Health and Choices & Consequences.

Intervention 6 – Speech & Language Therapy Training: A training programme for school SENCos delivered by Speech & Language Therapists from Alder Hey. The SENCos will follow an 11–16-year-old specific programme and can opt to work towards the ELKLAN accreditation.

Date for review/annual review mechanism

This Strategy document will be reviewed annually, with the next review due by 31st January 2025.

Progress of this strategy, the objectives set out within it and the local action plan, will be reviewed at least quarterly through the Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board and Serious Violence Duty Tactical Oversight Group.

Summary of Annual Assessment of Progress

This section will be applicable 12 months after the local Strategy is produced and will provide a summary of the annual assessment of the partnership's performance against the previous years' strategy.

Format to be as follows: 'Year 1 Actions – What has been achieved – What has been the impact? E.g., using performance monitoring report outputs/outcomes, consultation feedback etc., - Year 2 Actions e.g., what are our learning points, what are we going to build on and how are we going to do that?

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	30 January 2024
Subject:	Ofsted Inspection Reports		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) on Ofsted Inspection Reports and the work of the School Improvement Team.

Recommendation(s):

That the report be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To appraise the Committee of developments.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A)   Revenue Costs

Any support for schools provided by, or brokered, by the School Improvement Team leading up to or after Ofsted are contained and can be met from within existing budget provision.

(B)   Capital Costs

Not applicable

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None directly
Legal Implications: School Inspection Handbook, Education Act 2005
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes The report sets out gradings by Ofsted for schools that have been inspected.
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

There are no climate emergency implications as a direct result of this report.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The School Improvement Team offers support to all schools receiving an Ofsted inspection.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above
Place – leadership and influencer: As above
Drivers of change and reform: As above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7434/23.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5534/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B)   External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting

Contact Officer:	Tricia Davies /Jacqui Patterson
Telephone Number:	
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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Ofsted Summary of Outcomes and Support Summer 2023 – Published results for the schools outlined.
- Ofsted Summary and Outcomes and Support Autumn 2023-published results for the schools outlined.

Background Papers:

There are background papers available for inspection.

1.   Introduction/Background

1.1   Schools can be inspected under Section 5 or Section 8 guidance.

1.2   Under the education inspection framework section 5 inspections, inspectors will make the following judgements about schools: overall effectiveness; quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development and leadership and management. If the school offers early years provision and sixth-form provision, inspectors will also make judgements on these areas.

1.3   Under the education inspection framework section 8 inspections may be carried out for a range of reasons: schools judged to be good or outstanding at their most

recent section 5 inspection; monitoring inspections of schools judged as requires improvement; monitoring inspections of schools judged to have serious weaknesses; monitoring inspections of schools judged to require special measures; any inspection that is carried out in other circumstances where the inspection has no specific designation, known as 'section 8 no formal designation inspection' and unannounced behaviour inspections.

1.4 The usual interval for section 5 inspections is within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last section 5 or relevant section 8 inspection took place.

2. Support from School Improvement Team:

2.1 All schools currently judged Requires Improvement or Inadequate receive support and challenge from the School Improvement Team. In addition, the team also broker support. Schools with two RI judgements or judged inadequate receive support from the DFE including a National Leader of Education working with the school and the Local Authority on a school improvement programme.

2.2 All schools currently judged Good or Outstanding have access to a health check when in the Ofsted window. This enables the school to identify any areas that they need support with. The team will then provide or broker support if required.

2.3 Once the school receives the call a member of the team will contact them to check if any support is required and keep in contact throughout the inspection.

2.4 The Service Manager for School Improvement or the Assistant Director of Education Excellence meet with the lead inspector during the inspection and attend the final feedback.

2.5 Following the inspection report being released the team will again provide or broker support as appropriate.

2.6 The Local Authority are held to account by the DFE and the Senior HMI for school performance. The main focus of discussions is regarding all schools judged as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate, the capacity to improve and the impact of support provided.

3. Inspections – Summer term 2023

The following schools outlined within the attached appendix have been inspected and reports received since the last meeting:

1. St Jeromes Catholic Primary
2. Summerhill Primary
3. Shoreside
4. Jigsaw
5. Valewood
6. Christ the King

7. Peterhouse School

8. IMPACT
9. Linacre Primary
10. David Bishop Shepherd School
11. Rimrose Hope C & E Primary School
12. Churchtown Primary School
13. Larkfield Primary School
14. Lander Road Primary School
15. Litherland High School
16. Crossens Nursery
17. Christ Church CE Primary School
18. The Grange Primary School
19. St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
20. St Edmund & St Thomas Catholic Primary School
21. Hudson Primary

4. Inspections - Autumn Term 2023

1. Northway Primary
2. Aintree Davenhill Primary
3. Hillside High School
4. Forefield Community infant & Nursery School
5. Presfield
6. Marshside Primary
7. Kings Leadership Hawthornes
8. Linaker Primary
9. St Michael's CE High School
10. Christ the King Catholic High School

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OFSTED Summary of Outcomes and Support Summer 2023

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
St Jeromes Catholic Primary	**18/04/23 & 19/04/23**	**David Robinson - HMI**	**Good** 📄 PDF 10283634 - St Jerome's Catholic Prir	1 March 2018 – **Good** 2763823 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Key knowledge from EYFS in some subjects to be built upon in year 1 • Leaders to monitor their subject to ensure the curriculum that is intended is taught.	Works with Formby SIG Supported a SCC Light touch LA inclusion support.
Summerhill Primary	**18/04/23 & 19/04/23**	**Jackie Shillings - HMI**	**Good** 📄 PDF 10283622 Summerhill Primary S	20 February 2018 – **Good** 2764133 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Some subjects are still in an early stage of development and is therefore uneven as a result eg subject specific vocabulary. • Teachers not routinely checking previous knowledge in some areas.	Strong links with the school SLT supportive of LA work
Shoreside Primary **Academy**	**25/04/23 & 26/04/23**	**Jackie Shillings - HMI**	**Good** 📄 PDF 10255930 - Shoreside Primary Scl	**Academy**	• EYFS work on ensuring that opportunities are not missed to deepen learning and implement the ambitious curriculum. • Revision of the curriculum is in early	Academy works well with LA. Representative from Rainbow working with LA on joint projects. Engages with LA and some elements of support.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					stages and some knowledge not quite embedded.	
Jigsaw	**25/04/23 & 26/04/23**	**Stuart Perkins - HMI**	**Outstanding** PDF 10226197 Jigsaw Primary Pupil Referra	21 May 2019 **– Good** 50087429 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• No development areas as outstanding judgement	Welcomed light touch LA support pre inspection. Liaises well with the LA IC team for advice and support.
Valewood Primary	**04/05/23 & 05/05/23**	**Niamh Howlett - HMI**	**Good** PDF 10283645 - Valewood Primary - 1	14 March 2018 – **Good** 2770137 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Assessment strategies need to be sued effectively to identify gaps in learning. • Sufficient time needs to be given to provide support to enable phonics catch up	Engages well with the LA and works closely with IC and inclusion team.
Christ the King High school	**04/05/23 & 05/05/23**	**Kate Bowker - HMI**	**Requires Improvement** PDF 10184366 - Christ The King Catholic Higl	24 February 2021 **Requires Improvement** 50161531 (ofsted.gov.uk)	***Monitoring visit letter*** • Use of assessment • Adapting the curriculum so SEND pupils learn well • Strengthen the support for early reading	Engages with the LA on some elements of support.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Peterhouse School	**10/05/23 & 11/05/23**	**Adam Sproston**	**Requires Improvement** [PDF] 10257068 Peterhouse School 13	27 February 2018 **Outstanding** 2762709 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Phonics teaching • Subject leaders knowledge of their subject area	No LA involvement.
IMPACT	**16/05/23 & 17/05/23**	**Pippa Jackson Maitland - HMI**	**Inadequate** [PDF] 10255959 - IMPACT - 104849 - Final Repo	8th & 9th January 2020 **Good** ofsted-report-2020.pdf (primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com)	• Set out intention of curriculum. • Each chosen subject needs map of content and sequence. • Baseline assessment and progress measures established. • Help teacher to make pedagogical decisions and good choices re how to teach. • Formulate a curriculum for behaviour teaching pupils how to behave (not just well managed) • Improve attendance and punctuality. • Clarify personal development provision and map out what pupils will experience Plan and	Intensive support package prior to inspection and this will continue RED category. Statement of action completed by LA for OFSTED Professional partner package enhanced. More regular support and challenge meetings to address issues and monitor progress Engaged well with Inclusion consultants and action plan of work scheduled for this academic year.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					implement careers programme at KS3. • Build expertise of leaders at all levels and reduce reliance on external support	
Linacre Primary	16/05/23 & 17/05/23	**Jeanette Walker - HMI**	**Requires Improvement** 50222665 (ofsted.gov.uk)	27 May 2021 **Requires Improvement** 50166315 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• 3 x RI • Refer to monitoring handbook but not clear cut and dry to academy order… • SEND • Early years curriculum and leadership • Leadership • Reading culture • Perhaps attendance	Intensive support provided from LA, DFE Executive HT supporting leadership. EYFS team supporting, SEND Inclusion supporting. LA officers now on governing body Engages well with Inclusion consultants and the inclusion team.
Bishop David Shepherd Primary	18/05/23 & 19/05/23	**Liz Kelly - HMI**	**Good** PDF 10256035 - Bishop David Sheppard Chur	20 November 2017 **Good** 2737959 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Some pupils don't attend regularly enough – work to improve attendance. • Small number of subjects – curriculum doesn't take *into account children's*	Excellent relationship with LA Requests support when needed. HT recently recruited as a Professional

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					knowledge – build on this and review.	Partner Engages well with the inclusion consultant.
Rimrose Hope C of E Primary School	**06/06/23 & 07/06/23**	**Claire Cropper - HMI**	**Outstanding** 50223274 (ofsted.gov.uk)	26 November 2019 **Good** 50134864 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• *NO development areas as outstanding*	Good relationship with LA DH is KS1 moderator and will support other schools to develop expertise. TAS with the inclusion service.
Churchtown Primary School **Academy**	**13/06/23 & 14/06/23**	**James Marsh - HMI**	**Good** 50224363 (ofsted.gov.uk)	8 February 2019 – **converted to Academy**	• Be clearer about building blocks of knowledge so pupils learn and remember more. • Assessment	Limited relationship with academy. SEND team continue to work with the school with limited engagement to implement support provided. SENCO engages well.
Larkfield Primary School	**14/06/23 & 15/06/23**	**Steve Bentham - HMI**	**Good** 50224743 (ofsted.gov.uk)	3rd March 2020 **Good** 50152797 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Gaps in reading in Year 2 and Year 3 • Some tasks are not matching the intended curriculum. • Pupil absenteeism	Good relationship School has welcomed support from SEND and pre inspection health checks offered.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
						HT supportive of LA and school engages well with the Inclusion consultant and team.
Lander Road Primary School	**22/06/23 & 23/06/2023**	**Niamh Howlett - HMI**	**Good** PDF 10283635 - Lander Road Primary -10487	6th to 7th March 2018 **Good** 2771105 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Phonics • More work on the curriculum for Geography/history/RE including assessment	Engages with the inclusion team. Light touch school.
Litherland High School	**21/06/2023**	**Michael Pennington - HMI**	**Requires Improvement** PDF 10259945 Litherland High School 141694	**25th & 26th January 2022** Requires Improvement download.asp (litherland-high.sefton.sch.uk)	Monitoring visit • Strengthen the quality of opportunities that promote, encourage and support pupils wider reading	Very limited engagement with research project
Crossens Nursery	**29/06/2023**	**David Lobodzinski - HMI**	**Oustanding under section 8 but will be graded inspection** PDF 10240672 Crossens Nursery School 10484	20 June 2017 **Outstanding** 2726485 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Ensure the content of the curriculum is clear and all practitioners know the knowledge and skills which they want the children to learn and when. • Develop practitioner expertise to deliver all areas of learning through further training and CPD. • This is a provisional outcome, the next inspection with be a	Good relationship School has welcomed support from EY SEND and Early Years pre inspection health check. HT supportive of LA and school engages well with the Early Years SEND Team and Early Years Quality team. HT engages in LA

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
					graded section 5 inspection.	meetings – EY Dev group
Christ Church CE Primary School	**29/06/23 & 30/06/23**	**Liz Kelly - HMI**	**Good** [PDF] ofsted-report-june-2023-christ-church-ce-	22 May 2018 **Good** 2781679 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• Key Stage 2 gaps in reading to be addressed • Address gaps in knowledge due to previous curriculum • Absenteeism-decisive action needed to tackle this	Light touch LA support. **New HT package September 2023**
The Grange Primary School	**03/07/2023 to 04/07/2023**	**Kelly Butler - OI**	**Good** [PDF] 10256070 - The Grange Primary - 104	8th October 2020 **Good** 50156581 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• A few foundation subjects need to be revisited more frequently to enable pupils to recall learning. • Attendance-persistent absence must reduce-work with parents	Good relationships with LA IC team and works closely on inclusion support including SNUPS development work.
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	**11/07/23 & 12/07/23**	**David Robinson - HMI**	**Good** [PDF] 10283643 St Benedict's Catholic Pr	13 March 2018 **Good** st-benedicts-catholic-primary-school-ofsted-report.pdf (stbenedictsprimary.co.uk)	• Gaps in knowledge to be addressed - Geography. • Attendance of disadvantaged	Light touch engagement.
St Edmund & St Thomas Catholic	**13/07/23 & 14/07/23**	**Liz Kelly - HMI**	**Good**	21 to 22 November 2017 **Good** 2745659 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• In some subjects teachers are not adapting the teaching to meet the needs of	Light touch engagement.

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Primary School			PDF 10256049 - St Edmund's and St T - 1		SEND • In maths and other subjects ensure the curriculum is fully implemented so prior learning can be built upon	
Hudson Primary School	**18/07/2023 & 19/07/2023**	**Victoria Burnside - HMI**	**Good** PDF Hudson Sept 23.PDF	21 November 2017 **Good** Ofsted Inspection November 2017.PDF - Google Drive	• Absenteeism- strengthen work with families to address persistent absenteeism. • Ensure pupils consolidate learning enough before moving on	Good relationships with LA. Works with inclusion IC for both mainstream support and SNUP.

OFSTED Summary of Outcomes and Support Autumn 2023

Name of School	Inspection Date	Lead Inspector's Name	Latest OFSTED Grade	Previous Inspection Date and OFSTED Grade	Development Areas	LA Relationship and Support
Northway Primary School	13 & 14 September 2023	Jeanette Walker - HMI	**Good** [PDF] 10283621 - Northway Primary Sch	20th February 2018 – **Good**	• **Matching phonics books** • **Formative assessment- classroom**	• **Good relationship** • **Active member of SIG group and regular attendance on LA training** • **Good relationship with the inclusion team** • **Attending restorative relational practice pilot**
Aintree Davenhill Primary School	19 & 20 September 2023	Liz Davidson - HMI	**Good** [PDF] 10294202 Aintree Davenhill Primary Sch	11th September 2018 – **Good**	• **Foundations subjects- strengthening sequencing and progression in more practical subjects.** • **Need to identify the component knowledge needed for the next phase.**	• **Good relationship** • **Active member of SIG group and regular attendance on LA training** • **Engages well with all inclusion services Including EY SEND, ASD team and SEND inclusion consultants.**
Hillside High School	19 & 20 September 2023	Jenny Jones - HMI	**Good** [PDF] 10290275 - Hillside High School - 141693	29th June 2021 **Requires Improvement**	• **In a small number of subjects, KS4 curriculum is not as well thought out at KS3. Need to build on key knowledge.** • **Teachers should be supported to design activities that help pupils secure learning over time.**	• **HT member of OFSTED research group** • **Good attendance at relevant training**
Forefield Communi	20th & 21st September	Tim Vaughan -	**Good**	7th & 8th July 2021	• **Some areas of the curriculum are not**	• **New HT attended HT briefing**

ty Infant & Nursery School	2023	HMI	PDF 10256000 - Forefield Community Inf - 1048	**Good**	thought out enough to ensure that small pieces of knowledge are bult upon. School leaders need to be clear on what the knowledge is pupils need. Leaders are aware of this. • **Books are used well in English lessons but this is less so in storytime.**	• **Inclusion consultant delivering training based on adaptive teaching.** • **Engages well with Inclusion services**
Presfield	**26 & 27 September 2023**	**Sue Eastwood - HMI**	**Good** PDF 10269007 Presfield HS and Specialist Coll	**7ᵗʰ February 2018 – Good**	• **Ambitious curriculum – A small number of subjects are still need work on essential knowledge – more work to do.** • **Communication and language – occasionally some staff are less confident in their awareness of communication and language strategies. Some inconsistency with other staff.**	• **Recently allocated an Inclusion Consultant.**
Marshsid e Primary School	**w/c 25 September 2023**	**Ruth Moran - HMI**	**Good** PDF 10289868 - Marshside Primary 10	**16ᵗʰ January 2020 Requires Improvement**	• **Address gaps in UKS2- possibly due to COVID but definitely linked to newer curriculum** • **Behaviour -pupils need to self-regulate their behaviour. Sometimes when they are working with the TA behaviour is different to their teacher.**	• **Support package from LA and excellent working relationship across the EE services** • **Engages well with all training offers and implements strategies across whole school cohorts.**
Kings Leadership	**27ᵗʰ & 28ᵗʰ September**	**Niamh Howlett -**	**Good**	**4ᵗʰ October**	• **Leaders need to ensure there is consistency in all**	• **Restorative Practice pilot works closely with**

Hawthornes	2023	HMI	Kings Leadership.PDF	**2022** **Requires Improvement** 50198791 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• subjects to check out what knowledge pupils have retained. • **Attendance needs to continue to be a priority as not enough children attend on a regular basis**	Inclusion team.
Linaker Primary School	**3rd & 4th October 2023**	**Clare Cropper - HMI**	**Requires Improvement** PDF 10294201 - Linaker Primary School - 1048	**28th September 2021** **Requires Improvement**	• **Behaviour will be weaved into the statements as too many AFIs would raise issues with the overall effectiveness judgement during the quality assurance process.** • **Curriculum** • **SEND-LA are working on this but there is considerable work still to be done** • **Leadership-to secure robust systems for various aspects of work-some things not working well.**	• **School supported with extensive package from LA** • **Targeted DFE funds and support provided** • **Inclusion consultant attends every 2 weeks to provide additional support to the SENCO (questions and answers), deliver training sessions and to model interventions to upskill staff.**
St Michael's Church of England High school	**22nd November 2023**	**Niamh Howlett - HMI**	**RI Monitoring visit**	**8th & 9th November 2022** **Requires Improvement** 50205172 (ofsted.gov.uk)	• **Reading at KS4** • **Attainment at KS5** • **Slow pace of improvement from previous inspection** • **Assessment strategies not used consistently well** • **SEND pupils absent from school**	• **Engages well with Inclusion Consultant.** • **Inclusion consultant attends weekly surgeries to support new in post SENCOS.** • **Specialist teacher available 2 days per week for consultations supporting C and L provision and EHCPs.**
Christ the	**29th & 30th**	**Kate**	**Good**	**25th & 26th**	• **Address gaps in student**	• **Allocated professional**

King Catholic High School	**November 2023**	**Bowker - HMI**		**February 2020** **Requires Improvement** [50151818 (ofsted.gov.uk)](#)	**knowledge** • **Attainment in 6th form (judged RI)** • **Pupil attendance – in particular SEN and disadvantaged**	**partner from SI, engages well with the LA** • **Has an allocated Inclusion Consultant who supports the SENCO when required.**

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 30 January 2024
Subject:	Education Scorecard		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:
To present the Education Scorecard

Recommendation(s):

Note the data contained in the scorecard

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) provide scrutiny in relation to educational progress and data.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)
Not applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) **Revenue Costs** Not applicable

(B) **Capital Costs** Not applicable

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications: Local authority has a statutory duty to provide support and challenge to educational providers. Measurement of success in this duty is related to educational attainment, attendance, exclusions, etc.
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Impact on Children and Young People: Yes	
Comments in the main body of the report	

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: supports EE team to consider the data and how they can best support vulnerable children and their families in education settings.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD..7415/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5615/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B)   External Consultations
No external consultations were sought.

Implementation Date for the Decision
Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Tricia Davies
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Appendices:
The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A – Education Scorecard

Background Papers:
There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Committee have requested scorecard to be presented on regular basis – this is the summer/autumn data 2023.

1.2 The absence table has been updated due to a change in the attendance system used to collate this information. The Identity and Access Management System (IDAMS) has improved the accuracy of the attendance data, but it does restrict us from viewing attendance over specific periods of time as the system only calculates attendance from the start of the academic year up to the latest update.

1.3 **All progress data below is provisional for 2023. KS4 data is not yet available.**

2. Overview

2.1 Absence: The overall absence figures for the academic years 2022/23 and 2021/22 are close. Absence for all students across Sefton for 2022/23 lies at 8.2% which is slightly higher the average absence in 2021/22 by 0.2%. Primary schools saw an improvement of 0.3% in that time while secondary schools had an increase of 0.7% from the previous academic year. Special schools saw a 0.2% drop in their absence rate overall from 2021/22 to 2022/23. The persistent absence figures showed improvement across all areas when comparing to the previous full year's totals with a significant improvement being seen in secondary schools who recorded a 7.2% drop in this statistic. Overall, pupils with persistent absences out of the entire cohort dropped by 3.1%. We can also see the attendance for the first term of 2023/24 in the below table.

2.2 Exclusions: Overall, there was a slight increase of 0.1% in all pupils that have missed at least one session due to an exclusion in the 2022/23 academic year when comparing to the year before that. The EHCP and special school cohorts recorded decreases when comparing the same periods while, the SEN, primary school and secondary school cohorts saw increases in the percentage of pupils with a recorded exclusion.

2.3 EHCP & EHCP NEET: There was a steady increase in the percentages of young people with an EHCP who are maintained by Sefton schools attending mainstream provision over the last three terms of the last academic year. EHCP NEET figures fluctuate from period to period. The additional table showing EHCP requests illustrates

the steady increase of requests over the last 3 years as requests seem to average over 100 per half term.

2.4   National and Sefton Language Data: There has been a continuous year on year increase in the percentage of pupils in Sefton that can speak a language other than English. The latest Sefton average for this figure lies at 6.9% in 2022/23 which was 1.4% lower than the North West local authority average and 13.3% lower than the National average.

Education Scorecard

Area	2023/2024	Academic Year			
	Latest 19th Oct 2023	2018/2019	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023

Absence

Absence Rate (Data is recorded from the beginning of the academic year up to each specified period above)					
All pupils	6.9%	5.0%	5.0%	8.0%	8.2%
EHCP pupils	11.8%	8.9%	14.4%	14.0%	12.7%
SEN support pupils	10.7%	7.1%	8.9%	11.2%	11.9%
LAC	8.1%	Currently Unavailable			8.7%
Primary	4.7%	4.3%	3.9%	6.4%	6.1%
Secondary	8.7%	5.7%	5.9%	9.9%	10.6%
Special	13.3%	9.5%	15.8%	13.3%	13.1%

Students with persistent absence (as a % of overall students in each specified cohort)					
All pupils	19.8%	11.7%	13.4%	25.3%	22.9%
EHCP pupils	29.2%				33.3%
SEN support pupils	28.8%	Currently Unavailable			34.5%
LAC	20.5%				22.0%
Primary	14.1%	9.6%	10.2%	19.1%	15.9%
Secondary	24.7%	13.8%	15.8%	28.3%	31.9%
Special	34.0%	27.6%	49.4%	40.5%	36.6%

Area	2023/2024	Academic Year			
	Autumn 1st half term	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	3 year trend

Exclusions

Fixed Term Exclusions (Pupils who have missed one or more sessions due to an exclusion out of the whole specified cohort)					
All pupils	0.9%	1.6%	2.8%	2.9%	2.4%
EHCP pupils	7.8%	5.5%	7.1%	6.0%	6.2%
SEN support pupils	2.1%	3.3%	5.5%	6.1%	5.0%
Primary	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Secondary	1.8%	2.6%	5.4%	5.8%	4.6%
Special	2.0%	3.7%	5.4%	4.8%	4.6%

EDUCATION SCORECARD

Education, Health and Care Plan

Area	2022/2023			2023/24	Annual		
	Spring 2nd half term	Summer 1st half term	Summer 2nd half term	Autumn 1st half term	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/23
Provision (Data calculated from a single day snapshot towards the end of each period)							
% young people with an EHCP attending mainstream provision (Actual Number)	25.0% (697)	26.2% (757)	27.7% (826)	26.2% (808)	20.7% (467)	22.5% (560)	27.7% (826)
% young people with an EHCP attending Sefton special schools (Actual Number)	28.2% (786)	27.2% (784)	26.3% (783)	26.3% (812)	30.1% (685)	29.8% (742)	26.3% (783)
% young people with an EHCP attending out of borough schools (Actual Number)	1.8% (49)	1.7% (50)	1.8% (55)	1.9% (59)	2.0% (46)	2.4% (60)	1.8% (55)
Requests (Data covers entire term)(58							
Number of EHCP requests	105	103	164	103	545	619	805
Number of EHCPs agreed	75	86	129	57 (as of 27/10/2023)	398	464	622

EHCP Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

EHCP NEET cohort for Ages 16-19 (Data pulled from a single day snapshot towards the end of each period)						
EHCP NEET	49	63	63	85	46	21	63

National and Sefton Language Data

Language	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2022/23	
	No	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**NW LAs**	**National**
Known or believed to be English	38,016	94.9	37,776	94.4	37,667	93.9	37,869	93.6	37,798	92.9	91.5	79.3
Known or believed to be other than English	1,997	5.0	2,169	5.4	2,313	5.8	2,546	6.3	2,799	6.9	8.3	20.2
Language unclassified	36	0.1	66	0.2	134	0.3	32	0.1	75	0.2	0.2	0.4
Sefton Total	**40,049**	**100.0**	**40,011**	**100.0**	**40,114**	**100.0**	**40,447**	**100.0**	**40,672**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Language	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2022/23	
	No	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**No**	**%**	**NW LAs**	**National**
Known or believed to be English	21,722	94.4	21,542	93.9	21,278	93.3	21,240	93.2	20,929	92.5	90.7	77.7

EDUCATION SCORECARD

	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	NW LAs	National
Known or believed to be other than English	1,267	5.5	1,341	5.8	1,408	6.2	1,523	6.7	1,651	7.3	9.2	22.0
Language unclassified	23	0.1	51	0.2	113	0.5	16	0.1	34	0.2	0.1	0.3
Sefton State-funded Primary	**23,012**	**100.0**	**22,934**	**100.0**	**22,799**	**100.0**	**22,779**	**100.0**	**22,614**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

| | 2018/19 | | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | | 2022/23 | | 2022/23 | |
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	NW LAs	National
Language												
Known or believed to be English	15,250	95.7	15,198	95.1	15,368	94.7	15,597	94.1	15,793	93.5	92.3	81.2
Known or believed to be other than English	679	4.3	779	4.9	854	5.3	965	5.8	1,073	6.4	7.4	18.1
Language unclassified	10	0.1	9	0.1	9	0.1	8	0.0	27	0.2	0.3	0.7
State-funded Secondary	**15,939**	**100.0**	**15,986**	**100.0**	**16,231**	**100.0**	**16,570**	**100.0**	**16,893**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Language	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2022/23	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	NW LAs	National
Known or believed to be English	599	96.6	634	96.8	647	95.1	695	95.1	750	94.9	94.3	85.2
Known or believed to be other than English	19	3.1	20	3.1	25	3.7	29	4.0	34	4.3	5.6	14.5
Language unclassified	2	0.3	1	0.2	8	1.2	7	1.0	6	0.8	0.1	0.3
State-funded special school	**620**	**100.0**	**655**	**100.0**	**680**	**100.0**	**731**	**100.0**	**790**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Language	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2022/23	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	NW LAs	National
Known or believed to be English	90	97.8	91	97.8	96	97.0	72	100.0	69	100.0	98.7	91.0
Known or believed to be other than English	2	2.2	0	0.0	2	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.2	8.0
Language unclassified	0	0.0	2	2.2	1	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1	1.0
State-funded AP school	**92**	**100.0**	**93**	**100.0**	**99**	**100.0**	**72**	**100.0**	**69**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Sefton Council   EDUCATION SCORECARD

OFSTED breakdown by Schools

Key:			
1 – Outstanding	**2** – Good	**3** – Requires Improvement	**4** - Inadequate

	Number of Schools														
	Sefton - All Schools					**Sefton - Maintained Schools**					**Sefton - Academies**				
School Type	**Total**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Total**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Total**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Nursery	**3**	1 33%	2 67%	-	-	3	1 33%	2 67%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Infant	**2**	1 50%	1 50%	-	-	2	1 50%	1 50%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Junior	**2**	-	2 100%	-	-	2	-	2 100%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Primary	**70**	9 13%	56 80%	4 6%	1 1%	61	8 13%	49 80%	4 7%	-	9	1 11%	7 78%	-	1 11%
Secondary	**18**	-	11 61%	5 28%	2 11%	3	-	2 67%	1 33%	-	14	-	8 64%	3 21%	2 14%
Special	**5**	2 40%	3 60%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
PRU	**2**	1 50%	-	-	1 50%	2	1 50%	-	-	1 50%	0	-	-	-	-
Sefton Schools	**102**	**15** **15%**	**75** **73%**	**9** **9%**	**3** **3%**	**73**	**11** **15%**	**56** **77%**	**5** **7%**	**1** **1%**	**23**	**1** **4%**	**16** **70%**	**3** **13%**	**3** **13%**

Ofsted School Inspection Summary (Updated as at 16th October 2023).

Sefton Council EDUCATION SCORECARD

Key:			
1 – Outstanding	**2** – Good	**3** – Requires Improvement	**4** - Inadequate

Ofsted Breakdown by number of pupils

Sefton Council | EDUCATION SCORECARD

	Number of Pupils														
	Sefton - All Schools					Sefton - Maintained Schools					Sefton - Academies				
School Type	**Total**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Total**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Total**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Nursery	**234**	66 / 28%	168 / 72%	-	-	234	66 / 28%	168 / 72%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Infant	**763**	323 / 42%	440 / 58%	-	-	763	323 / 42%	440 / 58%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Junior	**839**	-	839 / 100%	-	-	839	-	839 / 100%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Primary	**21,024**	2,762 / 12%	17,118 / 82%	963 / 4%	181 / 1%	18,171	2,522 / 14%	14,686 / 81%	963 / 5%	-	2,853	240 / 9%	2,432 / 85%	-	181 / 6%
Secondary	**16,932**	-	11,990 / 71%	3,467 / 20%	1,475 / 9%	3,064	-	2,183 / 78%	881 / 22%	-	13,317	-	9,807 / 74%	2,035 / 15%	1,475 / 11%
Special	**794**	405 / 51%	389 / 49%	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
PRU	**103**	19 / 18%	-	-	84 / 82%	103	19 / 18%	-	-	84 / 82%	0	-	-	-	-
Sefton Schools	**40,689**	**3,575 / 9%**	**30,944 / 76%**	**4,430 / 11%**	**1,740 / 4%**	**23,174**	**2,930 / 13%**	**18,316 / 79%**	**1,844 / 8%**	**84 / 0.4%**	**16,170**	**240 / 1%**	**12,239 / 76%**	**2,035 / 13%**	**1,656 / 10%**

School cohort data taken from Jan 23 Census.

Ofsted School Inspection Summary (Updated as at 16th October 2023).

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Sefton Council   EDUCATION SCORECARD

Area	2019	2022	2023*	2 Year Trend	Compared to 2022	National		
						2019	2022	2023*

Early Years Foundations Profile

% reaching good level of development								
All pupils	N/a	60.8	63.8	62.3	3.0	71.8	65.2	67.3
Disadvantaged Pupils	N/a	41.7	46.9	44.3	5.2	Not Available	Not Available	52.1
FSM Pupils	N/a	41.6	47.0	44.3	5.4	57.0	49.1	51.6
All SEN pupils	N/a	12.1	16.4	14.3	4.3	Not Available	18.8	19.9

*All 2023 data is currently <u>PROVISIONAL</u>

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Sefton Council | **EDUCATION SCORECARD**

Area	2019	2022	2023*	3 Year Trend	Compared to 2022	National		
						2019	2022	2023*

Phonics

% Year 1 Pupils working at the expected standard								
All pupils	82.5	75.0	79.8	79.1	4.8	81.9	75.5	78.9
Disadvantaged Pupils	71.4	61.9	64.0	65.8	2.1	70.8	62.5	66.8
FSM pupils	69.9	61.1	64.0	65.0	2.9	70.0	62.0	66.5
All SEN pupils	39.8	35.3	40.7	38.6	5.4	43.2	38.4	42.3
% End of Year 2 Pupils working at the expected standard								
All pupils	92.6	88.3	89.5	90.1	1.2	91.4	87.0	88.6
Disadvantaged Pupils	87.5	79.4	82.6	83.2	3.2	85.5	78.3	81.0
FSM pupils	86.1	79.3	82.4	82.6	3.1	83.8	77.8	80.7
All SEN pupils	64.1	53.6	59.8	59.2	6.2	64.0	54.9	58.8

***All 2023 data is currently <u>PROVISIONAL</u>**

Sefton Council ✠   EDUCATION SCORECARD

Area	2019	2022	2023*	3 Year Trend	Compared to 2019	National		
						2019	2022	2023*

Key Stage 1

Reading - % reaching expected standard								
All pupils	74.6	65.8	67.9	69.4	2.1	74.9	66.9	68.3
Disadvantaged Pupils	59.1	52.2	52.1	54.5	-0.1	61.8	51.6	53.9
FSM pupils	57.5	51.5	52.7	53.9	1.2	60.4	51.2	53.8
All SEN pupils	30.8	26.5	26.5	27.9	0.0	29.7	26.1	27.8
Writing - % reaching expected standard								
All pupils	67.7	54.2	56.3	59.4	2.1	69.2	57.6	60.1
Disadvantaged Pupils	52.9	38.5	38.8	43.4	0.3	54.7	41.2	44.4
FSM pupils	51.7	38.0	39.1	42.9	1.1	53.3	40.9	44.5
All SEN pupils	19.1	14.2	13.8	15.7	-0.4	21.6	17.2	18.7

*All 2023 data is currently <u>PROVISIONAL</u>

Sefton Council EDUCATION SCORECARD

Area	2019	2022	2023*	3 Year Trend	Compared to 2019	National		
						2019	2022	2023*
Key Stage 2								
Reading - % reaching expected standard								
All pupils	73.4	77.0	73.2	74.5	-3.8	73.6	75.0	72.6
Disadvantaged Pupils	61.8	65.5	60.3	62.5	-5.2	62.3	62.5	60.1
FSM pupils	61.0	63.0	58.9	61.0	-4.1	58.8	61.6	59.3
All SEN pupils	32.2	40.0	42.8	38.3	2.8	36.4	37.6	38.6
Writing - % reaching expected standard								
All pupils	77.0	67.6	70.4	71.7	2.8	78.9	69.7	71.5
Disadvantaged Pupils	63.8	51.7	53.4	56.3	1.7	67.9	55.3	58.1
FSM pupils	61.3	49.1	52.3	54.2	3.2	63.8	54.4	52.3
All SEN pupils	25.6	23.1	27.3	25.3	4.2	34.1	25.9	28.9

***All 2023 data is currently <u>PROVISIONAL</u>**

Sefton Council EDUCATION SCORECARD

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	30 January 2024
Subject:	Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Children's Social Care Education		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To:
- seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24;
- note that there are no items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan / to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the latest Key Decision Forward Plan;
- note the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24;
- note and agree the recommendations arising from the informal meeting on Home Education held on 10th January 2024;
- note the training proposals available from the Local Government Association and in-house;
- note that the topic of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has previously been approved as a potential item for in-depth scrutiny during 2023/24; and
- to receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations:

That:

(1)   the Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be noted, along with any additional items to be included and agreed;

(2)   the fact that there are no items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, on this occasion, be noted;

(3)   the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, as set out at Appendix B be noted;

(4)   the recommendations made at the informal meeting on Home Education, as set out at paragraph 2.5, be agreed;

(5)   the training proposals available from the Local Government Association and in-house be noted;

(6)   It be noted that the topic of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has previously been approved for in-depth scrutiny by Members of the Committee during 2023/24 and relevant activities are included in the schedule of the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, as set out at Appendix B; and

(7)   the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2023/24; identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny "adds value" to the Council; and to comply with a decision of the Committee to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

(A)   Revenue Costs – see above

(B)   Capital Costs – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None

Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Impact on Children and Young People: Yes Any direct implications on the impact on children and young people are set out within the report.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. Reference in the Work Programme to any other reports could impact on the Council's Core Purposes, in which case they will be referred to in the report when submitted.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As Above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As Above
Place – leadership and influencer: As Above
Drivers of change and reform: As Above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As Above
Greater income for social investment: As Above
Cleaner Greener: As Above

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A)   Internal Consultations

The Work Programme Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the Work Programme report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

(B)   External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Agenda Item 12

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Laura Bootland
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2078
Email Address:	laura.bootland@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A - Work Programme for 2023/24;
- Appendix B – Informal Workshops / Site Visits 2023/24

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

1.1 The Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee during the Municipal Year 2023/24 is set out at **Appendix A** to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.

1.2 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2023/24 and reviewed/updated, as appropriate.

1.3 During the 2022/23 Municipal Year, the Committee agreed the following items for consideration during 2023/24:

- Representatives of the Police and other Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team members be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee (Minute No. 59 (2) (a) of 06/03/23 refers). This has been arranged for the meeting on 12 March 2024.

1.5 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2023/24, as appropriate, and note that additional items may be added to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS / INFORMAL MEETINGS / BRIEFING SESSIONS 2023/24

2.1 The Committee has agreed to hold informal briefing sessions, as and when required, rather than establish a traditional working group, during 2023/24.

2.2   A schedule of the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, is set out at Appendix B.

2.3   The schedule will be updated during the Municipal Year as sessions take place.

2.4   **The Committee is requested to comment on the schedule of informal activities to be undertaken during 2023/24 and note that additional items may be added to the schedule at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

2.5   An informal meeting of committee members took place on 10th January 2024 when information was received on Elective Home Education and the Council's response to the Department for Education consultation 'Elective Home Education Guidance Review'.

Committee Members made three proposals which require formal Committee approval and are set out below:

That

1. Officers be recommended to record and report data on the whole process of elective home education, to include data on the number of enquiries made, how many parents are encouraged to keep their child in a school setting, how many children return to school after a period of time being home schooled and how many children are successfully home schooled long term, in order for the full picture to be known.

2. The Committee recommends that all Members who have contact with parents who are considering home schooling, encourage those parents to seek further support and guidance on the issues their child is experiencing before a formal request to home school is made in writing to the Local Authority/School, and Members be encouraged to inform the Attendance and Welfare Team Manager about any such contact with parents.

3. The Committee fully supports the North West regional response to the to the open consultation from the Department for Education on revisions to the non-statutory Elective Home Education (EHE) guidance for local authorities and parents.

3.   PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

3.1   Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan, which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.

3.2   The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.

3.4 The latest Forward Plan published on 22 December 2023, for the four-month period 1 February 2024 – 31st May 2024, contains no key decisions that fall under the remit of the Committee, on this occasion.

3.5 **The Committee is requested to note that there are no items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit of the Committee, on this occasion.**

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION / IN-HOUSE – TRAINING PROPOSALS**

4.1 During 2023/24, the Council has secured a commitment for the Local Government Association (LGA) to provide training for Members of the Committee, as outlined within the paragraphs below.

Dedicated support for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

Workshop sessions have been organised and delivered as outlined within the table below:

Session	Dates – in person (6.00 - 8.00 pm) Bootle Town Hall
Session 1 Introduction to children's scrutiny and work programming.	Tuesday, 30 May 2023
Session 2 Recap on Session 1, engagement and working with others.	Tuesday, 25 July 2023
Session 3 Demonstrating value and influence and creating a strong organisational culture.	Monday, 2 October 2023

Support for Members of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Two alternative training sessions for all O&S Committee Members have been held on Thursday, 15 June 2023, in Bootle Town Hall from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Support for all Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Details to be determined.

Mentor Support for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

Arrangements have been made and support is on-going.

All Member Corporate Parenting Briefing

The Council's Corporate Parenting Officer is providing in-house mandatory Corporate Parenting training, as in previous years.

Four alternative one-hour briefing sessions have been arranged remotely via Microsoft Teams during 2023/24. Two sessions have been held to date, as follows:

- Monday, 19 June 2023, 2.00 p.m.
- Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 5.00 p.m.

Further sessions are planned, as follows:

- Wednesday, 1 November 2023, 6.30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 24 January 2024, 4.00 p.m.

4.3 **The Committee is requested to note the training proposals available from the Local Government Association and in-house.**

5. **WORK PROGRAMMING / MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TRAINING SESSION HELD ON 11 JULY 2023**

5.1 Members and Substitutes were invited to attend an informal work programming session prior to the meeting of the Committee on 6 June 2023.

5.2 A further an informal work programming session took place prior to the training session held 11 July 2023.

5.3 The following three topics were narrowed down as potential items for in-depth scrutiny during 2023/24, and discussed at the training session held on 11 July 2023:

- Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Health Inequalities
- Child Protection and Safeguarding

5.4 As SEND was the topic that appeared to raise the most concerns amongst Members, it is proposed that this is identified as a potential item for in-depth scrutiny during 2023/24,

5.5 **That it be noted that the topic of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has previously been approved for in-depth scrutiny by Members of the Committee during 2023/24 and relevant activities are included in the schedule of the informal meetings of Committee Members and site visits to be undertaken during 2023/24, as set out at Appendix B.**

6. **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

6.1 During the October/November 2019 cycle of meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 15 October 2019 (Minute No. 32 refers).

6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

6.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.

6.4 **Role**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a "critical friend" to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan.

6.5 **Membership**

The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member

from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Desmond, Hart and Howard (Scrutiny Link).

The LCR O&S Committee also include Representatives of the Liberal Democrat Groups and Conservative Groups from the Local Authorities on the LCR O&S.

5.6 **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair is appointed at the first meeting of the Committee of the Municipal Year.

5.7 **Quoracy Issues**

A high number of meetings of the LCRCAO&S have been inquorate in the past.

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation.

The Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer will be looking to work with the Monitoring Officers from the other Combined Authorities to identify what problems they are experiencing with Scrutiny and how/if they had overcome them. Representations to Government would also be considered once all options locally to resolve the quorum issue had been exhausted. The CA Monitoring Officer would then be able to provide evidence to Government that the quorum level was obstructing the work of scrutiny within the CA.

5.8 **Meetings**

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link:

https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0

5.9 **Latest Meeting – 17 January 2024**

Matters considered at the meeting related to the following items:

- Mayoral Combined Authority Budget 2024-25
- Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region – engagement
- Work Programme Update
- Bus Service Improvement Plan Update
- Transport Matters

The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held on 28 February 2024. Matters discussed at this meeting will be reported to Members at the next meeting of the Committee.

Details of all meetings can be obtained using the link referred to above

5.10 *The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.*

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)
WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle	
No. **Report/Item**	**Report Author/Organiser**
1. Sefton Place - Community Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services Update 2022 - 2023	Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, Sefton Place
2. Children's Services Improvement Programme	Jan McMahon
3. Children's Social Care Overview of Practice	Joe Banham
4. Safeguarding Learning and Development Offer	Joe Banham
5. Education Scorecard	Tricia Davies
6. Ofsted Inspection Report (Spring Term)	Tricia Davies
7. Parent Governor Representative	Debbie Campbell
8. Cabinet Member Update Reports	Tricia Davies/Laura Knights/Debbie Campbell
9. Work Programme Update	Debbie Campbell

09/06/23

Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport		
No.	**Report/Item**	**Report Author/Organiser**
1.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Tricia Davies/Joe Banham/Debbie Campbell
2.	Domestic Abuse	Janette Maxwell
3.	Report for Information on Vaping Amongst Young People	Helen Armitage
4.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Jan McMahon
5.	Children's Social Care Overview of Practice and CHAT	Joe Banham
6.	Executive Scrutiny Protocol	Paul Fraser
7.	Work Programme Update	Debbie Campbell

Tuesday 28 November 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle		
No.	**Report/Item**	**Report Author/Organiser**
1.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Tricia Davies/Joe Banham/Debbie Campbell
2.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Jan McMahon
3.	Children's Social Care Overview of Practice and CHAT	Joe Banham
4.	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Joint Commissioning Plan	Eleanor Moulton
5.	Education Scorecard	Tricia Davies
6.	Ofsted Inspection Report (Summer Term)	Tricia Davies
7.	Proposals to Amend the Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Debbie Campbell
8.	Work Programme Update	Debbie Campbell

09/06/23

Tuesday, 30 January 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport	
No.	**Report/Item**	**Report Author/Organiser**

No.	**Report/Item**	**Report Author/Organiser**
1.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Tricia Davies/Jan McMahon /Laura Bootland
2	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Jan McMahon
3.	Children's Social Care Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement	Joe Banham
4.	Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report	Karen Gray
5.	SACRE Annual Report	Ian Ross
6.	Serious Violence Duty	Steven Martlew
7.	Ofsted Inspections	Tricia Davies/Jacqui Patterson
8.	Education Scorecard	Tricia Davies/Jacqui Patterson
9.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

Monday, 12 March 2024, 6.30 p.m. Town Hall, Southport	

No.	**Report/Item**	**Report Author/Organiser**
1.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Laura Bootland
2.	Attendance of MASH	Alex Jones (Verbal item, no report).
3.	Children's Services Improvement Programme	Jan McMahon
4.	Children's Social Care Overview of Practice and CHAT	Joe Banham
5.	Education Scorecard	Tricia Davies
6.	Ofsted Inspection Reports (Autumn Term)	Tricia Davies
7.	Work Programme Update	Laura Bootland

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APPENDIX A

09/06/23

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SAFEGUARDING)
INFORMAL MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS 2023/24

No.	Report/Item	Organiser
1.	**Work Programme Session** Prior to the first formal Committee meeting for the Municipal Year on 6 June 2023, an informal meeting of Committee Members and Substitutes took place to consider matters to be raised during the Municipal Year 2023/24 and a number of different matters were raised.	Debbie Campbell
2.	**Work Planning Session** A further Work Planning Session took place on 25 July 2023.	Debbie Campbell
3.	**Feedback from an Ofsted Monitoring Visit** An informal meeting took place on 31 August 2023, to receive information on the above. Paul Boyce, Sefton's Commissioner for Children's Services, gave a presentation and Ristardh Hare updated Committee Members on the recent Ofsted letter and the improvement journey for Children's Services. Members **agreed that** a training induction pack should be developed for new Members of the Committee.	Debbie Campbell Ristardh Hare Paul Boyce

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4.	**Emotional Health & Wellbeing Services** An informal meeting with Health Partners was held on 21 September 2023, when Members received a presentation from the Cahmelions Group, which was comprised of service users aged 18 and under. Committee Members also received a presentation from heath providers on Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services for children and young people. Committee Members made a number of recommendations which were subsequently approved by the Committee at its meeting on 26 September 2023.	Debbie Campbell / Laura Bootland
4.	**SEND** **Ofsted Inspection Readiness** An informal meeting of Committee Members was held on 16 October 2023, via MS Teams. **Graduated Approach** An informal meeting of Committee Members was held on 23 November, in person. A further meeting will be held in February to speak to Headteachers from various primary and secondary schools, date TBC.	Laura Bootland / Tricia Davies / Chris Lee
5.	**Home Education** An Informal meeting of the Committee was held on Wednesday 10th January at 4.30pm via Teams, to receive a briefing on Home Education in Sefton and the Council's response to the Government consultation on home education. 4 recommendations were made and are attached to the work programme report at appendix c.	Laura Bootland/ Tracy McKeating

6.	**Improvement Board Update** An informal meeting of the Committee has been arranged for Tuesday 9th April at 10am, via Teams, for the Committee to receive an update on the work of the Children's Services Improvement Board.	Laura Bootland/Joe Banham
7.	**Meeting(s) with Groups** Sefton Parent Carers Forum - Members met with Sefton Parent Carers Forum on Monday 4th December 2023 and Tuesday 12th December 2023 To meet with the Making a Difference (MAD) Group – to be arranged.	Debbie Campbell / Laura Bootland
8.	**Visits** To visit the Menai Wellbeing Centre – to be arranged. To visit Children's Services at Magdalen House, Bootle – to be arranged. To visit the Sunflowers House building at Alder Hey - to be arranged.	Debbie Campbell / Laura Bootland

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